

What's age got to do with it?
Canadian study says dykes prefer older women, gay men like younger mates.
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He won't be on skates
but Rudy Galindo will march in SF AIDS vigil on Sunday.
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Books in print
Our recreational reading issue for summer 2000.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 20 • 18 May 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Bad AIDS bill gets better

by Katie Szymanski

It has been a familiar scenario in HIV/AIDS care for too long: lazy providers do not follow guidelines for testing, counseling, and follow-up care, and the state steps in to make doctor protocol easier at the expense of patient confidentiality and consent.

In California, current law requires prenatal counseling and an option for pregnant women to get an HIV test, but somehow the medical establishment just doesn't have the time. The solution? Test all new mothers without their consent and revoke the counseling option, then report the names of those who test positive. That's how AB2809, authored by Assemblyman Rod Pacheco (R-Riverside) would have played out had AIDS organizations not intervened.

Now, thanks to groups like the California HIV Advocacy Coalition and the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, what started out as a punitive HIV measure may have been transformed into a public health policy that will help pregnant women rather than treat them with suspicion.

"The bill started out so terrible," Eileen Hansen, public policy director of ALRP, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "we had to hit hard."

AB2809, in its amended form, will offer — instead of require — an HIV test at labor, and will preserve prenatal counseling. It also calls for a written form to record the mother's consent. The new bill was passed by the Assembly Health Committee last Tuesday, May 9.

"We're very pleased that the negotiators agreed that pregnant women should have the same rights as everyone else when it comes to HIV testing," said Hansen.

But Hansen also expressed cautious optimism for the bill's amended version.

"I'm surprised the other side agreed to this compromise, because it is so close to current law," she said. "I would hope this bill remains as it is now, as opposed to the original approach, which had a much broader agenda."

Pacheco's office denied that the original bill was harmful, insisting that it was meant to protect mothers.

"There was a lot of confusion in the

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Eileen Hansen

Arrest warrants issued for ACT UP/SF members

by Terry Beswick

Arrest warrants were issued Monday, May 15 by the San Francisco Superior Court for four members of the local AIDS dissident group ACT UP/San Francisco.

The four — David Pasquarelli, Andrea Lindsay, Jason "Todd" Swindell, and Michael Bellefontaine — are each being charged by the district attorney with one misdemeanor charge of trespassing at an April 17 educational forum in San Francisco organized by two nonprofit AIDS groups, Project Inform and Survive AIDS.

Additionally, the warrants for Pasquarelli and Lindsay allege that the two "willfully and unlawfully used force" against two individuals at the forum. They are being charged with misdemeanor assault, a charge defined by the D.A.'s office as an "attempt to inflict bodily injury."

Meanwhile, at press time, four of the five temporary restraining orders granted in the aftermath of the April 17 forum and issued almost two weeks ago by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Alfred G. Chiantelli against some of the same members of ACT UP/San Francisco — including Pasquarelli, Swindell, and Bellefontaine, as well as their fellow dissident Ronnie Burk — had not yet been presented to the identified individuals by authorized process servers, and therefore were not yet in force. Of the five restraining orders, which require the named people to



The ACT UP/San Francisco building at 1884 Market Street.

stay at least 100 yards away from Project Inform's offices and public meetings, as well its staff and volunteers, only the order against Lindsay had been successfully served.

"We believe that they are evading service, and that they know the terms of the restraining orders," stated Amy Lovell, an attorney with Morrison and Foerster who is repre-

senting Project Inform on the civil matter on a pro bono basis.

"The plaintiff feels like they're evading being served, but they're not," said Michael Lee, the lawyer who's representing the five on the civil matter.

The court will hold a hearing on whether

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E*Trade's Levinson pushes for workplace equality

by Cynthia Laird

Kathy Levinson, president and chief operating officer of E*Trade, a very popular online stock trading company, was enthusiastically welcomed at a lunch sponsored by the California Alliance for Pride and Equality in downtown San Francisco last Friday, May 12. While she acknowledged that she stood before the estimated crowd of 240 people "reluctantly," Levinson spoke about the challenges facing members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the workplace.

Levinson made headlines last August when a local newspaper reported that she donated approximately \$300,000 to the No on Knight/No on 22 campaign, Proposition 22, which was approved by state voters in March, defining marriage as being only between a

man and a woman.

"What's really important is that we lead our lives with integrity and honesty, and as business leaders, the challenges and stakes go much higher," Levinson said.

She recounted the decision she and her partner, Jennifer, made to donate to the No on 22 campaign, calling the ensuing pressure "enormous." Immediately, she said, e-mail

messages began coming into E*Trade calling for her resignation and a boycott of the company.

"That's when you look deep down inside you," she said, adding that e-mail messages of support also were received.

Levinson said she knows many in the LGBT community are not out at work. "Business leaders have an obligation to make the workplace safe, to hire the best and the brightest, and to have policies attracting talent and retaining talent," she said.

She spoke of the

importance that the Internet has played in the booming economy, and of putting LGBT people in touch with one another. "We've got the Internet, and that brings gays and lesbians out of the closet, but also brings a lot of hate out of the closet," Levinson said.

In her daily professional life, Levinson said

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E*Trade COO Kathy Levinson

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What a ride!



Four-year-old Brandon Hebert gets a lift from his dad, Jonathan, at Project Inform's Ron Wilmot Bike Ride in Golden Gate Park last Saturday, May 13. PI's Julie Doherty said there were 111 registered riders and the benefit raised at least \$80,000 for the HIV/AIDS treatment information organization.

'Kandy Bar' opens for lesbians Saturday

by Katie Szymanski

There's no market for weekly lesbian parties, according to Mariah Hanson, producer of the Girl Spot, a Saturday night event that folded last month. And it's hard to convince club owners to host a night that brings in a fraction of what the men's parties earn.

Despite these observations, Hanson has decided to re-launch a weekly lesbian party in the exact same spot and on the same night as her recently defunct venture, which wasn't drawing a big enough crowd to sustain itself.

Hanson's new party, "Kandy Bar," will open at the Endup this Saturday, May 20.

"After the closing of the G, I have been bombarded with calls and e-mails asking me to reconsider. Some women have literally accused me of ruining their lives," said Hanson,



Promoter Mariah Hanson

who views these sob stories as a "reaffirming experience."

If you've seen the ads that feature feather-haired girls in bikinis leaping across the beach, you're fa-

miliar with Hanson's other productions: the Dinah Shore weekend and the Monterey Women's weekend.

But Kandy Bar, promises Hanson, will appeal to all women, as demonstrated by her flyer that lists "every imaginable type of woman, from butch to femme, boots to pumps, pierced to tattooed."

Hanson has added hip hop to the former G-Spot's usual house music and plans to use two deejays - including the newly hired Olga T - to provide diversity in the dance selections.

Kandy Bar will be open every Saturday night at the Endup, located at 401 6th Street. The cover charge is \$8 before 10 p.m. and \$10 afterward. Club hours are 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. For more information, visit the party's Web site at www.Kandybar.com, or call (415) 337-4962. ▼

'Wit' benefit for Q-Spirit this weekend

by Katie Szymanski

Working with Tony Danza and Alyssa Milano doesn't have to doom a career, as former *Who's the Boss* star Judith Light has proven with her role in the Pulitzer-prize winning play *Wit*, now at San Francisco's Curran Theater through May 28.

Wit tells the story of Dr. Vivian Bearing (Light), an icy intellectual who has been diagnosed with

ovarian cancer. With reviews that have praised Light's stunning performance, the show - written by openly lesbian kindergarten teacher Margaret Edson - has enjoyed successful runs in major cities throughout the country.

This Saturday, May 20, at 8 p.m., *Wit* will host a special benefit performance for Q-Spirit, the nonprofit organization committed to helping lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders rediscover their spiritual heritage.

Light, who has said that "queer people are an important part of the world's spiritual leadership," and who sometimes identifies as a queer heterosexual, will join the benefit attendees in a private reception after Saturday's show.

Tickets for the benefit show and reception are \$100, and \$50 for the reception only. The Curran Theater is located at 445 Geary, between Mason and Taylor. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (415) 281-9377. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Ackerman no friend to gays

by Bob Roehr

San Francisco's purported next public school superintendent, Arlene Ackerman, claims to be a friend of the gay community. But gay and lesbian leaders paint a very different picture in Washington, D.C., where she has headed up the public school system for the last two years.

Ackerman was selected by the San Francisco Board of Education to be its next superintendent Sunday, May 14, following a closed meeting. Ackerman has not yet formally accepted the offer.

"San Francisco beware," warned Lukas Malek, vice president of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance who has been trying to work with Ackerman. "She doesn't take phone calls, she doesn't

return phone calls," he said.

GLAA is a venerable local organization. Among its founders nearly three decades ago was gay political icon Frank Kameny, who remains an active member. A past president was the late Melvin Boozier, a national leader of black gays. Also leading the organization has been Lori Jean, who went on to become executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Los Angeles.

And the D.C. school system has a long history of strong relations with the gay community. It enacted job protection for gay teachers in 1972. So the tradition is there.

Last summer GLAA wrote to Ackerman about establishing a program to deal with peer harassment of gay students in the system. She ignored them. A follow up letter from D.C. City Councilmember Jim Graham brought a

response from the general counsel for the schools, and more stalling.

Malek said, "Ackerman only issued the policy directive when it became clear that if she did not act, the mayor and city council would." And then "she provided only lip service to the local community," he said, issuing the policy without input from the community.

A community meeting was promised in March, then April, then May. Malek has not had his repeated phone calls to the department returned in the last two weeks.

But this is not a matter of discrimination against gays. Ackerman seems to treat most people with equal contempt, including those who approve her budget. She once appeared before the D.C. City Council, but when the proceedings ran long and her time to speak had passed, she left. ▼

Union, supes target nonprofit hospitals for lack of charity

by Terry Beswick

Faced with an escalating budget crisis in the city's public health care system, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors has apparently grown weary of the perennial but futile blame-shifting offered up by budget analysts, who point to reductions in federal reimbursements and the skyrocketing cost of medical care to explain the latest financial woes at San Francisco General Hospital.

The city, of course, has little or no control over these twin forces extending far beyond the supervisors' domain, and last week, they leveled their sights on a new and insidious part of the problem: the failure of three of San Francisco's private, nonprofit hospitals to provide their "fair share" of charity care for poor people in San Francisco.

Sparked by a detailed analysis from the Service Employees International Union Local 250, presented Thursday May 11 to a special session of the board's Health and Environment Committee, the tax-exempt status of three nonprofit hospitals — and millions of dollars in profits that status allows them — sustained heavy fire from a steady stream of witnesses.

Sal Rosselli, president of the union that represents 48,000

health care workers in Northern California including nearly 13,000 in San Francisco, was the first to testify at the hearing chaired by Supervisor Barbara Kaufman, and called by board President Tom Ammiano.

"We're calling on the city's private tax-exempt hospitals to do their fair share," declared Rosselli, charging that three in particular are engaged in "cost-shifting" to SFGH and are governed by a "bottom line mentality."

"Tax-exempt status carries a responsibility," Ammiano pointed out, adding that the city must decide "what constitutes 'charity care,' and which level is appropriate."

Focusing on research comparing expenditures and profit margins of the city's hospitals, Rosselli and other witnesses juxtaposed the unusually low spending on charity care against the tax breaks and other benefits claimed by the three, all owned by multi-billion dollar health care conglomerates: Catholic Healthcare West's St. Mary's Medical Center and St. Francis Memorial Hospital and

Sutter's California Pacific Medical Center.

The comparison was not flattering to the so-called charitable hospitals.

Largely drawing on published data from state agencies, Local 250's report, "Fair Share for Health Care: San Francisco Hospitals' Care for the Poor and the Public Health Care Crisis," highlighted the fact that the three hospitals each spend an average of less than 1 percent of their net patient revenues on charity care for the poor, with St. Mary's and CPMC spending .3 percent and .4 percent respectively.

Nationally, private nonprofit hospitals spend an average of 3 percent of their annual net income on charity care, and at SFGH, the city provides charity care worth \$26,300,000 — 8.8 percent of the public hospital's annual revenues.

And the cost-shifting trend has continued.

"Charity care has long contributed to health care of citizens in the United States," said Roma

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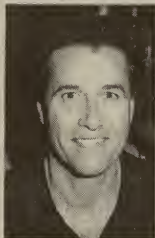
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Migden prison bill clears Assembly

by Katie Szymanski

Never one to give up on a cause, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) successfully passed AB2101 – a bill that would allow greater media access to California prisons – through the state Assembly on May 11. The bill is now in the state Senate, where a final vote is expected by the end of the legislative session. Governor Gray Davis vetoed a similar measure sponsored by Migden last year.

AB2101 comes at a time when California prison officials are under intense scrutiny for their blatant disregard of healthcare standards, deliberate attempts to encourage prisoner fighting and gay bashing, and various other human rights violations reported from within prison walls and at parole board hearings.

In 1996, the Department of Corrections ended its 20-year pol-

icy of permitting prisoner interviews with journalists and eliminated the confidential status of prisoner-media correspondence. Under current regulations, journalists are only allowed random interviews while on a tour of a facility, and are prohibited from using writing tools, paper, or a tape recorder during the visits.

Anyone who saw Ted Koppel's recent report on California's correctional facilities on *Nightline* would probably understand why prisons don't welcome the media. When women prisoners complained of male doctors who administered pap smears too frequently, the prison physician responded on camera that a pap smear is enjoyable for a prisoner because it is the only sexual contact with men she receives.

It is the exposure of such attitudes and injustice that makes media access so important.

"AB2101 will keep government open and accountable, protecting

the taxpayers' right to know what is going on inside their prisons," said Migden.

Davis said his veto of Migden's previous bill was out of concern that journalists would glorify criminals through their stories. But Migden pointed out that before 1996, prisons could deny a specific interview if that particular concern prevailed.

"For 20 years, the state had a successful system to allow the news media to cover day-to-day operations in prisons," said Migden. "That policy preserved the right of the Department of Corrections to deny an interview in certain circumstances."

Michael Miller, Migden's chief of staff, said proponents of AB2101 would work with the governor this year to resolve his concerns.

"I think we can work something out where we're not providing opportunities for people to glorify criminal behavior," said Miller. "We should be able to reach a compromise." ▼

Wesla Whitfield sings again for DVAC Sat.

by Terry Beswick

Internationally known jazz vocalist Wesla Whitfield will give a performance in San Francisco this Saturday, May 20 in support of the Diablo Valley AIDS Center. This year's "Evening with Wesla Whitfield," an annual benefit at the Marines' Memorial Club at 609 Sutter Street begins with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by dinner, and concluding with the performance from Whitfield and her husband, accompanist Mike Greensill.

Well known among jazz enthusiasts and praised by music critics for her "distinctive vocal styling and rich, crystalline voice," Whitfield has performed at Carnegie Hall, the White House, and the London Palladium, and regularly headlines at the Algonquin in New



Wesla Whitfield

York and at San Francisco's Plush Room. Whitfield and Greensill have performed for several years

at the DVAC benefit.

"This wonderful singer thrills me when I hear her," said Tony Bennett, quoted by event organizers.

A nonprofit serving people with HIV and AIDS in Contra Costa County since 1988, DVAC is the area's only food distribution and nutrition education center, now providing groceries and other services for over 300 people weekly.

"We are so grateful to have these superb artists help us in our fundraising efforts," said Barry Gilmartin, the organization's board president.

Tickets are \$125 each and are available through DVAC. ▼

To purchase tickets or for more information, call (925) 686-3816.

PAWS program expands clientele

by Katie Szymanski

There's nothing like a furry, loyal, bundle of love to kiss and hold when times are tough. But what happens when you become too ill to take care of the one being in your life who helps you cope with the rough spots?

In the spirit of helping everyone in need, Pets Are Wonderful

Support has launched a pilot program for all people with debilitating illnesses, the first time the organization has offered its services to people with illnesses other than HIV/AIDS.

Under the new program, PAWS will provide dog walking, animal feeding, transportation to veterinarians, litter box changing, grooming, and free pet food to low-income San Francisco resi-

dents who have been diagnosed with a terminal or chronic disease and have a companion and/or service animal.

PAWS is currently accepting new clients who meet that criteria. The pilot program currently has six members and is looking for nine more participants.

To become a PAWS client, or for more information, call Robin Enciso at (415) 241-1473. ▼

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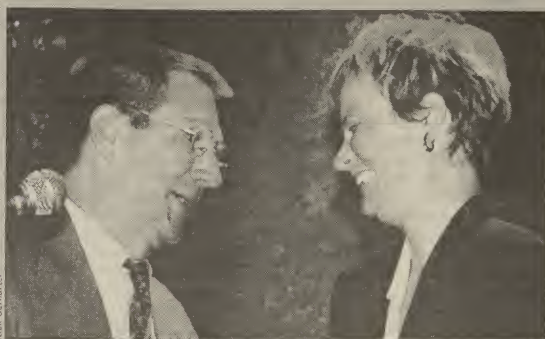
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Continuum thanks Pat Christen



Former Continuum Executive Director William Glenn presented San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen with an award at Continuum's 10th anniversary benefit Monday, May 15 in San Francisco. Tim Hanlon, of the Wells Fargo Foundation, also was honored at the event, which raised over \$80,000. Continuum provides day services and other programs for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dolores Street director named to homeless board

by Katie Szymanski

It is not well known, but it is perhaps the most important committee when it comes to the city's housing problem. The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board — the group that oversees all homeless programs — welcomed several new appointees to its team last week, including Dolores Street Community Services' Executive Director Bob Nelson.

Nelson fills the board's slot for an HIV/AIDS service provider who focuses on health services, HIV, and harm reduction for the homeless population. His term began immediately, and he was sworn in last Thursday, May 11 at City Hall.

"I am very honored to be on this very important board," said

Nelson, who was appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. "They were specifically looking for someone with a background in AIDS and health work in relation to homelessness. But of course I will bring to the table the many populations I have served through Dolores Street Community Services."

DSCS runs the Richard M. Cohen Residence for formerly homeless people with AIDS and the Dolores Housing Program, the city's only provider of shelter targeting the Latino working poor. DSCS also runs a community center which hosts needle exchange in a woman-safe space, a medical clinic for street youth, and many 12-step programs.

"I think it's important that the many faces of homelessness and HIV be addressed," said Nelson of his new position. He only wishes



DSCS' Bob Nelson

more people knew about the board on which he now serves.

"This is the key group which works on the homeless plan for the city," said Nelson. "People interested in the homeless should really know more about this board. This is the group to go to with your issues." ▼

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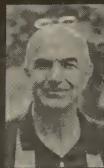
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Ben & Jerry's wins lawsuit

by Katie Szymanski

A gay resident of the Haight District who claimed that the street crowd in front of the local Ben & Jerry's dealt drugs, made noise, and yelled homophobic taunts, lost his case against the ice cream store in San Francisco Small Claims Court on May 11.

Arthur Evans, author of *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture* and *The God of Ecstasy*, had sued the shop for \$5,000 in damages for maintaining a public nuisance across the street from his house.

"There was continual drug dealing in front of the store,"

Evans testified. "People defecated and urinated on the sidewalk, left used needles in front of neighbors' doors, and pounded on drums around the clock. The store's management did little or nothing to control the problem."

Be that as it may, Judge Sue Kaplan ruled that Ben & Jerry's was not liable in the matter.

Evans said that the storefront has improved since the lawsuit was filed a few months ago, but he worries about what will happen "now that the heat is off."

"The folks at Ben & Jerry's say they want to save the rain forest," said Evans. "They should clean up the mess at their front door first." ▼

You can help shape the future of Yosemite Valley

Yosemite National Park has released the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan for public review. This plan presents several proposals that seek to restore portions of Yosemite Valley to their natural state and to enhance the visitor experience in one of the nation's greatest national parks.

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Wayne Friday**ASSISTANT EDITORS**
Terry Beswick
Mark Mardon
Katie Szymanski**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler • David Bianco
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OPEN FORUM

Strengthening CAPE

Most readers probably are not familiar with the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, the state's relatively new lobbying group for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Despite coverage in this publication and others, CAPE has neither made a dramatic splash in state politics, nor has it yet become a potent political force.

It is our sincere goal to help make that change, especially in this election year, by following CAPE's progress.

Since its inception in 1998 to replace the LIFE Lobby, CAPE has struggled somewhat — first in taking an inordinate amount of time to hire its first executive director last fall, only to see her abruptly resign earlier this year. The organization has always needed money, though a substantial shot in the arm is likely as CAPE is expected to receive the bulk of the money leftover from the No on 22/No on Knight campaign.

Being a statewide lobbying group in the largest state in the country is not an easy thing, and Jean Harris, who was hired as CAPE's second executive director in January, has her work cut out for her. One of Harris's strengths, however, is her experience running a statewide organization — before moving back to California, Harris ran Basic Rights Oregon, where she was successful in setting up a statewide database of LGBT voters to combat homophobic ballot measures. Harris told us shortly after taking over CAPE that she envisions similar efforts in California, and that CAPE will receive voter files, computers, and other office equipment purchased for the No on 22 campaign.

Last Friday, CAPE held its first major benefit in San Francisco, a luncheon that featured the elusive Kathy Levinson, president and chief operating officer of E*Trade, the hugely successful online stock trading company. We say "elusive" in describing

Levinson, because she has been reluctant — her word — to speak publicly since she made news last summer with her \$300,000 donation to No on Knight.

But at the luncheon, Levinson proved herself to be an effective spokeswoman for LGBT workplace equality. Acknowledging that most of the people she deals with in the business world are "straight, white men," Levinson described how it was in business years ago when she and her partner both worked at the same company and talked to a superior about getting domestic partner benefits. And in the process, they educated one of those "straight, white men."

"Educational activism" was the phrase

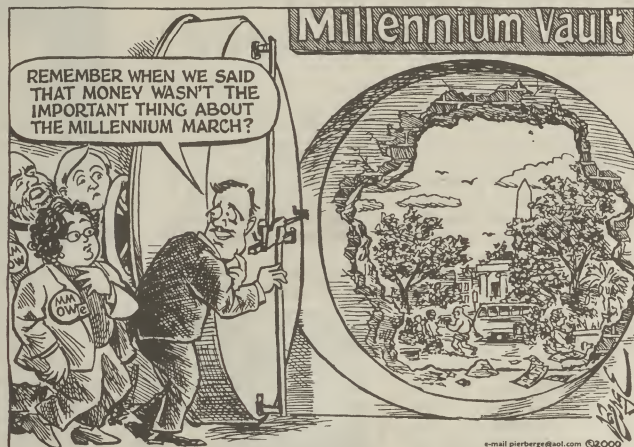
Levinson used in describing what the LGBT communities need to do, and CAPE, she said, "is the way we're going to get there."

Another positive aspect of the CAPE lunch was that the East Bay was represented in the forms of Berkeley City Councilman Kriss Worthington and Hayward City Councilman Kevin Dowling. CAPE must continue to reach LGBT communities outside San Francisco and Los Angeles if it is to be successful, and Harris knows this.

Last week's lunch was a stepping stone to the next level. With new leadership like-ly and an active, hard working board, the organization can get through these growing pains and become a force for LGBT equality in Sacramento. ▼



Editorial



Civil unions: Different, better

by Steve Swayne

Here in Vermont, I had read and heard, again and again, that "civil union" is "marriage" by another name. Just this past week, a letter to the *Rutland* (Vermont) *Herald* sounded that warning (along with the "fact" that homosexuals use children for sexual pleasures at a rate that is 30 times greater than that for heterosexuals). Good people — by definition, only straight people can be good — must oppose civil unions, because traditional marriage is threatened by the legal recognition of gay couples.

I'll admit that at first I didn't understand how two gay people getting hitched threaten Ozzie and Harriet next door. But the debate up here has made me see a bit more clearly where the threat lies and why some folks believe that civil unions and marriage are synonymous.

Forget, for a moment, that the civil union bill means that civilly recognized gay and straight couples in Vermont will enjoy identical state benefits under the law. (I have a harder time forgetting that we won't get federal benefits under the state bill.) Strangely enough, very few opponents to civil unions have argued against giving gay couples benefits. In fact, the leader of the main local pro-traditional marriage organization conceded before the state Senate Judiciary Committee that she personally didn't object to giving gay couples the legal benefits that straight married Vermonters enjoy.

So where's the beef?

For many people — and for me, as well — to say you are married means that you have had a marriage ceremony. And while that ceremony can be as simple as taking an oath before a civil magistrate or as furtive as an out-of-state elopement, for many people the ceremony means "wedding." And we all know what "wedding" means: tuxedos and taffeta, churches and clergy, organs and grandy.

I'll wager that the supporters of traditional marriage follow the same thought trail as I do. Since they cannot see how any cou-

ple can be legally recognized without a wedding of some kind, to them "getting unionized" means "getting married." They balk at the idea of two men or two women standing before a minister and vowing, "before God and these witnesses," to love and to cherish the other person "until death us do part." For them, there's either one bride too many or one too few, so there can be no kiss. To them, the whole idea of gay unions is ludicrous, because they cannot imagine what a gay wedding would look like.

Now, I know a few gay couples who want an old-fashioned wedding ("love and honor, yes, but not obey"). And I've been to a few gay weddings myself. But the debate up here reminded me: I really don't need or want a wedding. Church-goer that I am, I don't need my church's blessing on something that is already blessed. My partner and I hate wearing tuxedos. And as a professional pianist, I can do without the organ.

Saying that we don't want a wedding tells me we don't want traditional marriage either. Let the straight couples have the marriage ceremony. And let them have marriage, traditional or otherwise.

Make no mistake: Mike and I do want the rights, benefits, and responsibilities that married people enjoy. But I don't require the rite to obtain the rights. And that's the beauty of Vermont's law: the state provides us benefits without the societal expectation that we'll have a wedding.

In fact, the opponents to gay marriage have a point that "marriages without weddings," which is what civil unions are, will weaken traditional marriage. Vermont's civil union law separates the religious aspects of the wedding ceremony from the civil recognition of committed couples. To my knowledge, no lawsuit has yet prevailed that has asked the government to separate religious marriage from civil marriage, even though we already separate religious and civil divorce.

But we would all benefit from a separa-

tion between church and state when it comes to marriage. Have a civil ceremony to receive the legal benefits of coupledom. Then, for those who find the rite important, have a separate religious ceremony. Give marriage back to the church where it belongs. (My! It all sounds like Europe!)

So here is our opportunity to point out how civil unions are not only different from but are also better than traditional marriage. I want to be able to visit Mike in the hospital. I don't need to exchange rings to secure that right. I want him to inherit our

property tax free. I don't need a ministerial pronouncement to make sure that happens. I can do without the flowers and the caterer. I can do without a kiss

in front of God's representative on earth. A party at our house with family and friends will be fine by me. (We're planning to certify our civil union at our home around the time of our ninth anniversary this October.)

Getting "C.U.'ed" works for us. Granted, Mike and I will only get the benefits that the state of Vermont confers upon us. But I can see the day when, after other states have followed Vermont and passed civil union bills of their own, someone on Capitol Hill will introduce federal civil union legislation, granting to gay and lesbian couples all of the federal rights, benefits, and responsibilities that married people enjoy.

I'm hoping it will be someone from the Vermont delegation who proposes the federal legislation. And yes, I'd like to see that legislation enacted sooner rather than later.

But if the feds don't want to call it "marriage": that too will be just fine by me. By then, Mike and I will have a number of years behind us being "union men." ▼

Steve Swayne is an assistant professor of music at Dartmouth College. He and his partner, Mike Backman, recently moved from Berkeley, California and now live in Woodstock, Vermont.

LETTERS

The racial issue around ACT UP/SF

The voters have spoken and said they want people with legitimate documented medical concerns to have access to small amounts of marijuana for their personal consumption. But they never dreamed that ACT UP/SF or any one else would create a major business solely for the sale, usage, and consumption of this drug, and not pay a dime in state taxes. All this right under the noses of the mayor, the district attorney and the police department of this city.

I've read Proposition 215, the medical marijuana act, now section 11362.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. Amongst other things, it says that patients have the right to "obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes" and that patients and their primary care givers are not subject to criminal prosecution if they do so. Nowhere does it say that anyone has the right to sell it and make outrageous profits off the backs of the very people who are the sickest, weakest, and poorest of us.

In my opinion, \$1.5 million dollars worth of revenue made from the sale of drugs as David Pasquarelli and ACT UP/SF said they made last year, does not make you AIDS activists. It makes you drug dealers. As a group, selling it to people with life-threatening diseases that have little or no other options doesn't make you a legitimate business. It makes you a drug cartel.

This is exactly the kind of story that pisses the hell out of people of color. This state has spent 10 years building new prisons to hold mostly poor black and Latino youth for minor drug offenses like being duped into selling a small amount of crack cocaine to undercover police officers.

Meanwhile, this group of mostly Caucasian, mostly male, self-appointed "activists" are making this kind of money from this quantity of drugs?

Every black and Latino parent in this

city and every young person who has served a day in jail on minor drug offenses should rise up in outrage at being incarcerated while these people are out running the slickest con in this city's history.

I am not turning this into a racial issue, my friends. As a gay man of color, I am telling you it already is! When this story gets out, and it surely will, this community and the political leadership of this city are going to have to provide some answers to some very tough and embarrassing questions.

I've got to hand it to Pasquarelli and Co. for their brilliant yet criminal scheme. Sad truth is we all know that you could not get away with this if you were black or brown or yellow in America. And that is the worst message possible to be coming from San Francisco of all places. People, this is simply an outrage and it must end now.

Will Carter
San Rafael, California

ACT UP/SF sucks

With lawyers suing to block such things as the North Beach parking garage and the sale of the *San Francisco Chronicle* to the Hearst Corporation, can't we convince an attorney or two to sue ACT UP/San Francisco? We can't stop ACT UP's gang of thugs from being assholes, but we can at least bankrupt them and take away some of their power.

I encourage anyone who has been threatened, hurt, or even inconvenienced by these idiots to file a lawsuit against ACT UP/San Francisco.

I also hope that people from our community stop buying pot from these guys. Don't give them your money. They'll only use it against you in the long term.

Steve Weller
San Francisco

AIDS 'dissident' responds

I am writing with regard to the B.A.R.'s report on AIDS and AIDS "dissidents" in South Africa which omits or misconstrues many vital facts [*"South Africa gives forum to HIV dissidents," May 11*].

For example, the article incorrectly states that 4.4 million South Africans are "infected with HIV" when this number is only an estimate. These estimated rates for HIV are based on results of antibody tests administered to pregnant women, and readers are not alerted to the well established fact that pregnancy itself elicits production of antibodies that can be misread on tests as HIV antibodies, particularly on the less specific ELISA that is used on the continent for mass prenatal screenings.

The article also fails to mention that less than 13,000 actual cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in the country since 1981 (World Health Organization Weekly Epidemiological Record Global AIDS Surveillance), a number that stands in stark contrast to the estimated prevalence of HIV.

Despite the harrowing estimates cited in the B.A.R. piece, along with predictions of worse to come, it is important to note that the population of South Africa continues to grow at rates that are higher than ever, and that infant mortality in the country has not increased since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic.

Also absent from the story is the World Health Or-

ganization's particular definition for AIDS in Africa. A persistent cough, transient fever, diarrhea and weight loss qualify a person for an AIDS diagnosis there - a positive HIV test is not required. These four clinical symptoms of AIDS are the same as those caused by malnutrition, parasitic infection, TB, malaria, and the effects of unsanitary drinking water, a situation that further confounds numbers that are already inflated by estimates and projections.

Rather than criticizing President Mbeki for his desire to clarify essential epidemiological data and investigate the many outstanding questions about AIDS, he should be applauded for his courageous and compassionate search for answers to a problem that, when carefully scrutinized, often doesn't add up.

Christine Maggiore
Founder/Director, Alive & Well AIDS Alternatives
Studio City, California

Government has no credibility on AIDS

I have been bothered by the constant attacks on ACT UP/SF and must join in the protest against these attacks and the police state mentality that some people seem to be promoting. AIDS is a scientific problem which can only be solved by questioning, not religious blind faith, reinforced by the police state. I urge that people view their Web site at www.actupsf.com for their side of the story.

The people I knew who died of AIDS understood very well, after much reading, that AIDS is genocide and that AZT is poison. We all know this country is based on genocide of the Native Americans and the enslavement and genocide of Africans. The government has always been the representative of big business, including the drug industry, whose primary goal is maximization of profits. Thus, the government has no credibility whatsoever on the AIDS issue.

What is known and obvious is that intravenous drugs cause immune deficiency, that we have been in the midst of a drug epidemic, that IV drug users are often poor, sick, and malnourished, and that this country has an almost non-existent healthcare system, thus aggravating all treatable medical problems. Rather than succumbing to the profiteering police state, I suggest we have more reports exposing the bankrupt healthcare system in the U.S., the need for a fully-funded national healthcare system whose funds can be transferred directly from the unnecessary military budget, and the need and means to eliminate poverty in the country which is quite feasible.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

First letter in 30 years

I have not written a letter to a paper for 30 years, but two letters in the May 11 issue of the B.A.R. have inspired me to write again.

Mr. McPherson, there is no need for a debate about the "proof" (to quote you) that HIV causes AIDS [*"Pot not as harmful as AIDS drugs"*]. All that is needed is that someone who is HIV-negative be injected with some HIV-positive blood and watch what happens without any treatment. This test of the HIV/AIDS correlation has been suggested many times and, as far as I know, has never been tried. I wonder why.

Mr. Matley, you seem to think that communism and fascism are the same [*"Force never heals wounds"*]. Please believe me that there is a difference. You might also be surprised to learn that under both fascist and communist rule parents still manage to love and to care about their children.

To quote a Russian proverb: Death lasts for a long time; stupidity lasts forever.

Randy Wilson
San Francisco

Ammiano = queer leadership

Once again Tom Ammiano has shown San Francisco that he is not afraid to provide leadership in order to right a wrong. He has come out publicly to criticize District Attorney Terence Hallinan's decision to grant involuntary manslaughter to Edgard Mora for the killing of Brian Wilmes.

Whether Ammiano endorsed Hallinan or not is irrelevant. Tom can disagree with decisions made by Hallinan if he wants to, what is important is that Ammiano continues to advocate for the rights of all people, including queer people.

I felt deeply moved at the rally demanding justice for Brian Wilmes, and stood with friends that have endured gay-bashing and racist attacks. Many of my friends have seen their attackers go free with very light punishment, just as Mora will receive the proverbial "slap on the wrist for killing a queer." Ammiano called that rally to express our deeply felt frustration with our current justice system that is not serving us.

After reading some of the letters published on the Bay Area Reporter [*Mailstrom*, May 11], I see that many people out there are more concerned about

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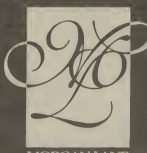


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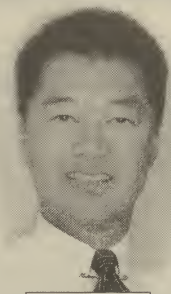
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Mailstrom

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Ammiano's endorsement than the matter of justice and leadership that are so sorely needed. In these times of misdirected leadership, when priorities are based on political gain, I feel extremely lucky to have Tom Ammiano as a leader, bringing us together in a single voice demanding justice.

Luis Pardo
San Francisco

Paramount's 'Gay Day'

I would like to applaud the recent column "Go Ask Alice" [Sports Complex, May 11] for having the guts to not only stand up to the Paramount corporation, but more importantly, standing up to the hypocrite gay business men in our community like circuit promoter Gus Bean who intends to hold Gay & Lesbian Day at Paramount's Great America this Memorial Day weekend. It amazes me that as we many thousands are uniting coast to coast trying to stand up for our rights as citizens and say, "Hey Dr. Laura, you're a hypocrite, and I'm not a biological mistake" and "Hey Paramount, it's not okay that you air Dr. Laura's show," that gay businessmen like Gus Bean, his employees, and the gay acts getting ready to perform at Paramount's Great America would spit in our faces and basically say our boycott of Paramount is for nyc.

Believe it or not, this boycott has been going full steam for well over eight months, more than enough time to change the venue. And while I'm sure the live bands performing at Gay & Lesbian Day, most being straight, just see this as another paycheck, I would think that gay and lesbian performers like Lea DeLaria, Page Hodel, WILD 94.9 FM's deejay St. John, deejay Julian Marsh, Eduardo Xol, Olga T, and deejay Salvador would have the sense and respect for the gay and lesbian community and our current struggle to not play at this event.

Performing or attending Gay & Lesbian Day at Paramount's Great America is no less than crossing union picket lines. Only these picket lines are about establishing yours and my rights as American citizens. I'm sick and tired of the straight business community jumping on the "gay-buck bandwagon" and disgusted by the Gus Bean's who see us as "stupid gay circuit boys" and just a quick buck. I intend to write many of these performers, their agents, and record labels and voice my concerns. I urge all readers to not only do the same but to boycott this event and any event these featured artists, promoters, or sponsors do in the future.

And yes, like the gay boy in the article who needed everything spelled out for him, this means you shouldn't go to Gus's Mass on Sunday.

James Regaspi
San Francisco

Lay out specifics, shelter foes

[The following was sent to Concerned Castro Neighbors.]

I live and work in the Castro, and I recently received the mailing regarding the Ark of Refuge's management of the proposed shelter (and past management of the temporary shelter). I also read the guest opinion in the May 4 B.A.R., which I believe was written by a group of people affiliated with the organization.

What was striking about the guest opinion and now about your flyer, is that nowhere do you indicate what the Ark of Refuge did "wrong," what they should have done differently in the past or what you would like them to do differently in the future, or what in your minds, would have been or would be the "right" way to manage a shelter in the Castro. Instead, you provide a list of neighborhood ills that you imply have been created or exacerbated by the alleged poor management by the Ark of Refuge, and say that as a result the agency should be denied further contracts for such programs.

Although I am aware that there is no neighborhood consensus that the problems to which you refer were in fact created or exacerbated by the shelter, I am interested in what you have to say about what the Ark of Refuge (or any other involved party) did "wrong," or what could be done differently by that or any other shelter management agency the next time.

I would be much more receptive to this, in fact, than to what seems to be a simple effort to impugn the reputation of a well-regarded agency doing lots of good work in our communities.

Donald C. Bliss
San Francisco

Against the ARF

Supervisor Mark Leno's proposed plan to open an adult residential facility at 2500 Market Street in San Francisco run by Ark of the Refuge Inc. is unacceptable. To date, Mr. Leno and the city have refused to give the neighborhood any real say in how this facility will be run or how unforeseen problems will be handled. Also the aspect of accountability to and partnership with the neighborhood.

This affects all of us in the Upper Market area. It is

the hub for many residents, i.e. where people, old and young, wait at all hours, day and night, for the #37 bus.

Please realize that our wishes must be respected and our voice is strong.

Joy Berry
San Francisco

Castro didn't always welcome youth

If there is one thing I really find appalling it's the "revisionists" who rewrite history and make up their own set of "facts" in the hopes of persuading people to their particular point of view. I feel obliged to write and correct some of the "facts" as presented in last week's B.A.R. [Mailstrom, Guest Opinion] regarding the history of the Castro and other issues surrounding the 2500 Market Street shelter proposal.

I have lived in the city for nearly 20 years, the last seven of which have been in the Castro. The Castro has always been viewed as a "wealthy" neighborhood ever since the original gentrification from being a primarily straight neighborhood to becoming the gay mecca back in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Thus, for the pro-shelter people to say "For many generations young people have left their families ... to find refuge and seek community at the corner of 18th and Castro" implying that runaway youth have always flocked to the Castro is a fairy tale.

The fact is, the Castro, until the last decade or so, has not been particularly welcoming to young gay runaways fleeing persecution at home. Now it is true that a great number of youth have historically flocked to the city "to find refuge." However, for the most part they historically congregated in the Polk Street area. It wasn't until the mid-1980s and early 1990s that the demographics of the neighborhood significantly started to change.

Another aspect of the pro-shelter letter I feel needs addressing is when they allege that people against the use of 2500 Market Street blame "all" the current problems on the EVRC. This is simply not true. In fact, the proponent's inability to acknowledge any continuing problems as the result of the EVRC demonstrates their own form of fanaticism.

In short, by blaming the neighbors for working to provide a decent life for themselves, by attempting to rewrite history and making up other falsified facts to support their viewpoint and by refusing to acknowledge the obvious problems caused by the EVRC in the neighborhood, the pro-shelter people do little to engender support for their cause. All they really do is show how disingenuous and desperate they are to have a shelter at 2500 Market Street, no matter what the cost.

Wolf Tombe
San Francisco

Disagrees with MMOW coverage

This letter is being written in response to the B.A.R.'s pre- and post-MMOW coverage. How dare you discourage members of the gay community from engaging in one of the only major opportunities to actually have an impact on the political climate of this nation? The Millennium March on Washington purpose is not only to have our voices heard clamoring on Capitol Hill, but also to give each marcher an empowering energy and feeling of accomplishment that he or she has set his or her feet on a street, in the District of Columbia, to say, "I am gay."

I can understand the disheartening feeling of finding out about the possible corruption of the profits being lined into the pockets of the wrong organizations or agencies, yet that is a reality that should not steer gay people and the transgendered away from standing up for their constitutional right. The editorial, "Marching to Nowhere" [April 13], censoring the MMOW, is based solely on the inequalities in the distribution of wealth, and clearly fashioned from a conflict perspective, where the interests are only based on the bourgeois and not on the proletariat. This argument of corruption in our society has, and will be a testable topic for decades.

How on earth can one compare the Millennium March on Washington to gay Pride in San Francisco? The lesbian and gay community of the Bay Area must be sidelined to the sidewalks to watch the local event, while the D.C. event actively integrated the nation's gay organizations and affirmative groups in unity with other gay men, gay women, and the transgendered as a whole powerful force.

I certainly hope that you do not think that the fight for equality is over, just because it seems to be in San Francisco, because that is a false reality. Our city supports domestic partner benefits and unions, but the national government still does not. Our city has protective legislation to prevent employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, yet if I remember correctly, there are still 46 states left in this country where a doctor, educator, janitor, and even a journalist can be fired because he or she is gay.

We as gay women, gay men, and the transgendered, need unequivocal equality in this country, and until this happens, I really wish the B.A.R. would begin to promote proactive events to make our dream a reality.

Tony Fabry
San Francisco

POLITICS

Democrats worry as Gore campaign lags

by Wayne Friday

Vice President **Al Gore**, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, whom many were practically calling "President Gore" only two months ago, immediately after the March 7 Super Tuesday primaries, has fallen behind Texas Republican Governor **George W. Bush** in several recent national polls, ranging from those conducted by CNN to the *Los Angeles Times*. The most recent one (the *Times*) has Bush ahead by 8 percentage points.



Vice President Al Gore

In an attempt to shrug off the sagging poll numbers and hoping to allay concerns among a growing number of Democratic Party operatives that his campaign has indeed been drifting since vanquishing former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley** in March, Gore this week offered a positive defense of his presidential campaign. The vice president, who noted that the election itself is still nearly six months away, told supporters and worried party leaders that the polls "do not matter a hoot" at this stage of the campaign and assured some of his campaign supporters that he will win his battle for the White House against Bush on the day "it counts most, on Election Day in November."

Claiming that American voters for the most part "are not paying a lot of attention" to the presidential race at this stage of the campaign, the vice president, with some history to support him, pointed out that polls are merely "snapshots of a moving picture and are inherently misleading" at this early date. In the past 10 days alone, four national polls showed that Gore has lost ground to Bush since the decisive round of primaries in March; three of them put the Texas governor's lead outside the usual margin of error while the fourth showed the race as a dead heat.

Gore, attempting to refute criticism by some top Democrats that he has allowed Bush to successfully use the past two months to shed much of the ideological baggage he had picked up, switching first to the far right to appease religious conservatives, and then deftly back to the political middle to claim the "compassionate conservative" mantle, while Gore's own campaign appeared to be drifting, argued that "the real value of how the two candidates have been spending our time will not be clear for months."

To make his case that the "natural progression toward Election Day" actually favors his candidacy, Gore compared himself to Bush's father, who as vice presi-

dent in the spring of 1988, trailed the Democratic challenger, **Michael Dukakis**, by double digits shortly after their respective nominating conventions. Some Democratic Party strategists, including one well-known California operative, pointed out that Gore has in fact lost some of the ground he made up during the primaries (when he was then 15 to 20 points behind Bush in most polls) since Bush now holds a clear lead among men, has sharply reduced Gore's advantage among women voters, and also now enjoys a modest lead among independents,

in many of whom once favored Arizona Senator **John McCain**.

On another front, the vice president this week expressed little concern over McCain's highly-publicized endorsement last week of the Texas governor, doubting that McCain's endorsement will complicate his efforts to attract the support of independents who backed the Arizona Republican in the early primaries. Apparently anticipating that he will face months of criticism from the Bush campaign over his role in the campaign finance scandal of 1996, Gore said he had met privately with McCain recently and had discussed the issue, noting that "I share Senator McCain's passion for campaign finance reform, and I am bound and determined to lift the banner of campaign finance as high as I can hold it."

Another possible problem for the Gore campaign is the fact that he has not yet held a McCain-Bush type of endorsement meeting with Bradley, the vice president's only Democratic primary opponent. In fact, some Democratic party leaders were suggesting this week that the sooner Gore and Bradley hold such a "unity" meeting, the better. No doubt, the Bush campaign seems to be on a high ride at the moment, while the vice president seems to be stuck in a political rut, and if the election were next week, we would have Dubya as our next president.

Thankfully, the election isn't next week, and as the vice president said this week: "when the American people really start focusing on the campaign, they're going to make a considered judgment about what my campaign is proposing, what my opponent is proposing, and what they feel about the prescriptions we're both offering. I look forward to that."

Politics and people

Apparently still worried about George W.'s highly-touted meeting a few weeks ago with those hand-picked Bush-leaning gay and lesbian Republicans, some 12 conservative pro-family groups, led by the anti-gay Family Research Council, have reportedly demanded that Bush meet with them ASAP so that they can remind the expected Republican nominee that the "homosexual agenda" is a real danger to families. Can't have Bush even appearing to be "at all friendly with those fags," one checkbook Republican in D.C. was reportedly overheard commenting.

Well, as one national columnist warned recently, "let the candidate of **Ralph Reed**, **Pat Robertson**,

and **Jerry Falwell** into the White House and we invite a government of, by and for the religious right."

Meanwhile, to further appease the religious right, Bush announced recently that Wisconsin Governor **Tommy Thompson**, a staunch abortion foe, will serve as the chair of the party's platform committee when the GOP

National Convention meets in Philadelphia in July, assuring that the GOP platform and its nominees will run on a strong pro-life plank again this year.

And how did Bush react to Sunday's Million Mom March gathering in

D.C. to call for commonsense gun laws such as national handgun licensing and registration (which the Texas governor strongly opposes)? He offered to give away free trigger locks to any Texas resident who might want them.



Our Man Friday



Joel Farley

Primary day in New Jersey features a serious candidacy by **Joel Farley**, an openly gay attorney, educator, and civil rights advocate in that state's 7th Congressional District and the popular Democrat is given a good chance of winning the nomination in that heavily Democratic district (Farley for Congress, 745 Lenape Trail, Westfield, NJ 07090).

Gay advocates in Maryland hailed a recent state court ruling that granted a lesbian the right to visit the 5-year-old daughter of her former partner. Advocates say the court of appeals decision gives gays and lesbians rights comparable to those of stepparents. The ruling is similar to recent decisions in New Jersey and Massachusetts; it sets a precedent unless overturned later by the state's highest court.

Mississippi, however, recently became the third state to ban gay couples from adopting children. Although the plan will be challenged in court, the new law was signed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove, a Democrat, after it easily cleared the Legislature; Florida and Utah have similar laws.

What's wrong with this picture? Just as KPIX, the local CBS-owned television station prepares to air the new *Schlessinger* program, hosted by the anti-gay Dr. **Laura Schlessinger** (who calls gays "deviants," prevented by a "biological error" from relating "normally" to the opposite sex), the San Francisco CBS-owned radio station, Live 105, quietly canceled *Hibernia Beach*, the popular gay-themed talk radio program, which had been heard weekly in Northern California

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Roundup: After the Millennium March

by Bob Findle of GLAAD

As expected, the May 1 coverage of the April 30 Millennium March on Washington was handled in a variety of ways in the nation's major newspapers. Please contact the outlets with your comments on their coverage of this national event. The following is a sample of what GLAAD found.

• The *Washington Post*: This host city provides perhaps the best coverage, starting with top, front-page coverage that included two color photos. Phuong Ly and David Montgomery's "Stepping Toward Gay Rights" continues to an inside full-page with another five color photos. It is very positive in tone. They include many quotes from participants and organizers that cover a broad range of topics and issues, providing readers with examples of how many different people make up the LGBT community.

Contact Gabe Escobar, City Editor, The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071-0070, fax: (202) 334-5672, e-mail: access "Feedback" at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

• The *Washington Times*: Also has front-page coverage, but the main article, John Drake's "Gay march draws thousands: Homosexuals show voting strength;

Clinton, Gore address group on tape" is about two-thirds smaller than the *Washington Post* article. The article's tone and language is problematic from the start, the opening sentence being, "President Clinton's administration gave an unusually warm welcome to tens of thousands of homosexuals who marched loudly on the Mall yesterday." Besides grossly underreporting the number of people (estimates range from a low of 200,000 by law enforcement officials up to 750,000 by MMOW organizers), characterizing Clinton's welcome as "unusually warm" makes it sound as if he did not use good judgment in acknowledging the march. Also, throughout the article the clinical terms "homosexual" and "homosexuality" are used almost exclusively in lieu of "gay" or "lesbian." The march itself is referred to as "a celebration of homosexuality."

Contact Ken Hanner, National News Editor, Washington Times, 3600 New York Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002, fax: (202) 269-3419; e-mail: letter@twtmail.com.

• *Los Angeles Times*: The newspaper gives MMOW front-page coverage with a color photo and then another half page inside. Alan C. Miller's "Thousands Rally in Washington for Gay Rights" covers the excitement and importance of the march. Similar to the *Washington Post*'s article, it includes a wide range of voices for quotes and insights and mentions of various diverse groups.

Contact Scott Kraft, National News Editor, Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA, 90053, fax: (213) 237-4712, e-mail: letters@latimes.com.

• The *Sun*: Baltimore's major newspaper places its coverage of MMOW on page A3 with one black and white photo. "Hundreds of thousands march on Capitol to support gay rights" is a small article culled from wire reports. While the article is generally positive in tone, it is disappointing that the paper chose to run only about 600 words placed in a non-prominent position and put in very little effort to cover a national event occurring so close to its area of readership.

Contact Sandy Banisky, National News Editor, The Sun, 501 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD, 21202-3604, fax (410) 752-6049, e-mail: letters@baltsun.com.

Are there no LGBT teens?

"The Teen Years: A Special Report" is the cover story for the May 8 *Newsweek*. The table of contents note reads: "They're the millennial generation. Eleven million teenagers growing up at a time of unprecedented prosperity—and unprecedented pressure. *Newsweek* charts the hopes and fears of the nation's teens, in their voices and through their eyes."

Unfortunately, not one openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender teen's voice is heard from in 20 pages of articles covering everything teen from life outlook, peer-pressure, sexuality, religion, fashion trends, and eating habits. The only mention of the LGBT community is in a quote from one interviewee saying how prejudice is a big issue of concern for teens.

This glaring omission only reinforces the misconception that there are no LGBT teens. This denial of LGBT teens causes people to say this group does not need consideration when drafting anti-discrimination school policies, that there is not a need for LGBT school clubs, that educators do not need diversity training inclusive of this group. This lack of inclusion will cause LGBT teens and their families who pick up the magazine to feel invisible and isolated.

While *Newsweek* has been inclusive of the LGBT community, such as in its March 20 "Gay Today" 15-page special report, it missed an opportunity to continue to be so with this issue. Please let the magazine know the importance of inclusiveness being maintained at all times.

Contact Ann McDaniel, Managing Editor, *Newsweek*, 251 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, fax: (212) 445-5068, e-mail: letters@newsweek.com.

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COMMENTARY

Last word on the march

by Dale Carpenter

It was the last general-purpose gay civil rights march on Washington. There may be others devoted to specific issues, like hate crimes legislation, but the days of omnibus marching are over. There's not much purpose to them anymore, and there's endless carping. Even so, we can learn some things from the Millennium March on Washington.

When it comes to marches, size matters to everyone. Most people without axes to grind who, like me, also went to the 1993 March on Washington thought the crowd was about the same size as then.

That has to be disappointing to organizers and opponents alike. Until this one, each successive national gay march attracted far more people than the one before. The numbers for the 2000 march stagnated, even though it's safe to bet there are far more gay people out of the closet now than during any previous march. They didn't think they needed to come; they have *Will & Grace* and the Internet now.

But it's equally clear that the call — by the far gay left and some ridiculous gay politicians — for a "boycott" of the march was ineffective. These people, organized as the Ad Hoc Committee for Endless Processes, demanded more "democratic" decision making.

The gay media blew it by paying disproportionate attention to them. Most gay Americans have never heard of these self-styled "grassroots leaders" and the six-person juntas they claim to represent.

For all the whining about a lack of diversity in the march, the crowd was *more* diverse than in 1993. There was a greater distribution of ages, more women, and certainly more families with children than back then. There were fewer shirtless muscle boys sunning themselves as a proportion of the whole.

By the way, wearing an Abercrombie & Fitch shirt doesn't make you look like the guys in the ads.

The crowd was well-behaved. With all the children present, it was an exhibition of true family values. Contrast that with the gaggle of anti-gay protesters who showed up to defend the Bible. They had a child, not more than 10-years-old, hold up two nude dolls simulating anal intercourse. We must defend our families against these sex-obsessed perverts.

On the stage, identity politics were in overdrive. A leatherman spoke in defense of all marginalized leatherpeople, of whom I counted precisely two in the crowd. The speakers mostly complained that there weren't enough speakers of their kind or that they didn't get to speak first. They shouted into the microphone a lot. Screaming into a microphone makes you sound shrill, not eloquent. There was no "I have a dream" moment.

Only one Republican, Mayor Neil Guillian of Tempe, Arizona, spoke in six hours of speeches — and he didn't come out as a Republican during his allotted minute. We've got a better chance of having an openly gay speaker at a GOP convention than an openly Republican speaker at a gay



Dale Carpenter, right, with his Democrat friend Julius Turman, at MMOW.

march, I guess. I don't know how many gay Republicans there are but I'll wager there are more of them than there are "Two-Spirit Peoples of Turtle Island," who also got one speaker.

During her comedy routine, Margaret Cho said she was happy she "could finally use the Washington Monument as my own personal

strap-on dildo." It wasn't funny, wasn't original (gee, who ever thought of the Washington Monument as a phallus before?), and was incredibly offensive to a large majority of Americans who think the place is a bit sacred. It was especially bad because it came at the beginning of the rally, before most C-SPAN viewers had fallen asleep. HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch told me Cho's joke was "not helpful," and wondered

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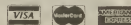
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Not what you think

by Jane Warner

100 block of Douglass, May 13, 3 a.m.: After a heavy night of drinking, a man came home to his flat and found he was locked out. Ringing the door bell several times, his roommate didn't answer, so he kicked in the door. The drunk changed clothes, rummaged through some drawers, packed a suitcase, then went to bed.

Unfortunately, he wasn't at home, he was next door at the neighbor's flat and didn't know it.

A short time later, the man who did live in the house came home drunk, crawled into bed, and passed out, unaware that the neighbor was beside him.

At 5 a.m., the resident's roommate came home to find the two men in bed together. An argument ensued. After a few blows were thrown, the first man angrily left the apartment.

It wasn't until the next day that the men realized \$300 was missing from a dresser drawer. A neighbor informed police that his roommate (the bed squatter) had left for San Diego that morning. Charges are on hold pending an investigation.

Wizard of Odd

4400 block of 18th Street, May 13, 10 p.m.: A woman reported that while she was at home, her

dog started to growl at a closed bedroom door. The woman slowly entered the bedroom and saw a window was opened. Walking over to the window, an arm suddenly reached through the curtain. The woman jerked the

curtains back and a man was standing behind them. The burglar screamed and went out the window, running through the back yard where the woman lost sight of him in the dark. The suspect is described only as male. No further description could be provided by the victim.

Make it a double

The Cafe, 2367 Market Street, May 12, 1:40 a.m.: A man who had too much to drink was cut off from the bar. Angry, the man picked up several glasses, hurling them at the bartenders. The bartenders ran for cover, ducking the flying glass. When it was over, no one was hurt, but numerous bot-

tles of booze and a glass mirror were smashed, causing \$600 worth of damage. The man was tackled by security and held for police. Booked for aggravated assault and vandalism was Kevin Richards, 35.

At least there's Pottery Barn

3800 block of Market, May 13, 4 p.m.: Police responded to a domestic argument after receiving complaints of noise. When officers arrived at the house, they saw a man throwing furniture out the second floor window. Underneath the window on the sidewalk were several smashed vases, a broken wooden chest of drawers, a Queen Anne antique mirror, Waterford crystal figurines, and four framed paintings, all of which sustained heavy damage. Officers entered the house and arrested the suspect, who told police he was angry because his boyfriend didn't return home the previous night. The man was taken to Mission Station and booked for vandalism and terrorist threats. ▼

Our Man Friday

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since October 1989. The final *Hibernia Beach* airing, hosted by popular longtime host **Ken McPherson**, was April 30, despite reports the show was always competitive, sometimes leading the ratings race in its time slot.

San Francisco Supervisor **Leslie Katz**, running for re-elec-

tion this year in the city's new 6th District, is reportedly taking political heat for proposing legislation that would override the city's limits on office space development in favor of unchecked growth of the dot-com industry, while she is herself pulling down a six-figure salary as a vice president of a dot-com company. Can you say "conflict-of-interest"? Or at the very least, "special-interest legislation"? And how was your week? ▼

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E*Trade

◀ page 1

she deals with mostly "older straight white men," and called for increased education for corporations around LGBT issues. "That's the way we change the world."

CAPE's role

CAPE, a statewide lobbying group that was formed in 1998 to replace the defunct LIFE Lobby, is the way the LGBT community will progress in the fight for equality, Levinson said.

Other local officials who spoke at last week's luncheon agreed, and added that business and organized labor must work together on that front. CAPE's Fair Workplace Project, which was started by Executive Director Jean Harris, is aimed at encouraging businesses throughout California to provide safe, fair work environments for their employees by voluntarily adopting written policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is just one of many businesses in the state that have such policies, as does E*Trade. PG&E was recognized at

the lunch, along with two labor unions, the Service Employees International Union, Local 250 and SEIU Local 790.

Sal Rosselli, president of SEIU Local 250, told the audience that "homophobia is the last politically correct form of discrimination." He experienced that discrimination when he ran for union president many years ago and an anti-gay mailer was sent out to union members in more conservative parts of the state in the last days of the campaign.

PG&E officials said they too,

are committed to fighting discrimination, and pointed out that the company was one of the first to have corporate policies that included sexual orientation back in the 1980s.

Assemblywomen Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) spoke at the lunch. They noted that soon, Kuehl likely will move on and become the state Senate's first openly lesbian member and Migden should have more openly lesbian Assembly colleagues after the November election, as Jackie

Goldberg and Christine Kehoe are favored to win their heavily Democratic districts in Southern California.

Migden told the audience members to continue their activism. "I say to all activists, if you're going to quit and take a leave of absence, get someone to take your place." ▼

CAPE memberships start at \$25. For more information about the organization, call (916) 492-6160.



Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl

OutRight

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aloud how such an insult would be received by the family of a hypothetical 15-year-old closeted boy in Kentucky watching on TV.

Unfortunately, Corri Plank, communications director for the march, was more circumspect about Cho's joke, saying "I don't want to make a judgment call on it." Lesson: hire organizers capable of judgment.

And don't let Ellen DeGeneres's partner, actress Anne Heche, speak ever again about anything. An old friend of mine, who happens to be a liberal Democrat, was aghast that Heche said three times that she suddenly "turned gay" at the age of 27. She said all this while wearing sunglasses. So L.A.

There was a noticeable lack of Gore-for-President paraphernalia in the crowd, despite predictions the event would be a pep rally for him. He and President Clinton showed up by videotape and got underwhelming applause. Actually, after all his betrayals, if the president had appeared in person I think he would have been mooned.

I doubt we'll do this again. The march got much less prominent coverage than the one in 1993. On an otherwise slow news day, it wasn't even the top story in the *Washington Post*, its hometown paper. It made page 14 of the *New York Times*, arguably the nation's most gay-friendly newspaper. National television practically ignored it.

And now the FBI is investigating the possibility that as much as \$750,000 in proceeds from the march festival is missing. Ken Starr, a gay nation turns its lonely eyes to you.

The best thing about these marches is that they encourage people to participate in the struggle for civil rights. But, unlike times past, there's plenty of encouragement without big marches to get active. The best evidence these marches were once needed is that they no longer are. ▼

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Rudy Galindo to take part in AIDS candlelight vigil Sunday

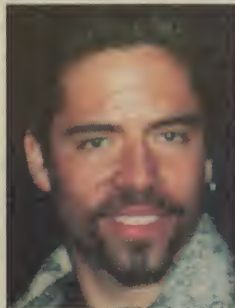
by Terry Beswick

From Botswana to the Bay Area, the 17th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization will be held this Sunday, May 21 in over 450 communities around the world.

Rudy Galindo, winner of the 1996 men's title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, will march in San Francisco's event, which begins at 8 p.m. at Castro and Market streets and proceeds to City Hall.

As in years past, the march will honor those people lost to AIDS and the commitment of those who continue the fight to end the AIDS pandemic, according to local organizers.

In a telephone interview, Monday, May 15, Galindo told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he will march in San Francisco for the same reason that he decided in February to tell



Rudy Galindo

the world that he had tested positive for HIV – because he wants to help prevent others from engaging in risky behavior.

"I want to tell people that, being gay and going through down times in your life, you have

to be careful and protect yourself," said Galindo, who will be in the Bay Area this weekend performing with "Champions on Ice."

The march will be followed by a 30-minute program of music, performance art, and remembrances, according to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the non-profit charity that is organizing San Francisco's vigil.

"This year the AIDS Candlelight Vigil will begin with PWAs carrying the original banner from the very first march in 1983, proclaiming what has become the motto of the PWA empowerment movement: 'Fighting for our lives,'" said SPI's Sister Kitty Catalyst.

"Break the Silence: Honor Every Death ... Value Every Life," is the international theme for this year's events, organized worldwide by the Global AIDS Council in Washington, D.C. The march was initiated by San Francisco-based Mobilization Against AIDS in 1983. But the event outgrew Mobilization, and the local group turned over the reins to the larger and better-funded council, an association of international health care advocacy groups and individuals.

The memorial is observed with events on six continents, in 43 nations, in hundreds of cities and towns around the world.

"The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and Mobilization is an opportunity to let our neighbors, our communities, our nations, and the world know that the lives of the 34 million people living with HIV and the lives of the 16 million who have died are valued, are priceless, are irreplaceable," according to a statement from the council.

People magazine recently referred to Galindo's seroconversion as "the latest sad chapter" in his life; Galindo lost his brother and his coach to the epidemic.

But for the champion skater, it has been another challenge to overcome.

"I guess for some people it was sad to know that I have [HIV], but for me, it's made me a stronger person," Galindo said. ▽

For more information about the march, call (415) 331-1500, ext. AIDS, or visit www.AIDS.CandlelightVigil.org.



www.glbank.com

Lee measure to help Africa fight AIDS clears House

by Cynthia Laird

An AIDS trust fund to help those suffering from the disease in Africa and other developing countries was approved by a voice vote by the U.S. House of Representatives Monday, May 15.

California Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) was a co-sponsor of the measure, called the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act, along with Representative Jim Leach (R-Iowa).

Lee praised Congress for its quick passage of the plan. Congress, Lee said, "is stepping up to the plate to exert moral leadership in this global pandemic."

"Over the past year, our na-

tion's moral compass has pointed us in a direction that guides us to address the AIDS crisis globally, and most profoundly in Africa, however, I remind you that the AIDS crisis in Africa is only the epicenter. The Caribbean, Asia, Latin America, and the Balkans are ticking time bombs," Lee said on the floor of the House shortly before the legislation was approved.

The legislation was included in House Resolution 3519. The combined bills instruct the treasury secretary to negotiate the establishment of a World Bank trust fund to provide education, treatment, research, and prevention funds to highly infected countries.

The Clinton administration re-

page 23 ▸

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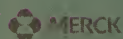
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CRIXIVAN in combination with antiretroviral agents is a powerful protease inhibitor that fights HIV and is among the preferred treatments for HIV in federal healthcare guidelines.¹ CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV; CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count, as shown in studies over a one-year period. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

■ DURABLE RESULTS

In a landmark study, over 90% of 31 patients receiving a combination of CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks. Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one-year mark. In a separate study, 30% of 261 patients receiving dual therapy of CRIXIVAN and AZT had serum viral loads below the limit of detection at 48 weeks. In another landmark study, 43% of 40 patients receiving combination therapy with CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC had plasma viral loads below the limit of detection at 40 weeks. In this study of over 1,000 patients, the group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. Overall, the number of deaths was inadequate to assess the impact of CRIXIVAN on survival. Blood viral loads were measured by available tests and the virus may still be present in other organ systems.

■ THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CRIXIVAN

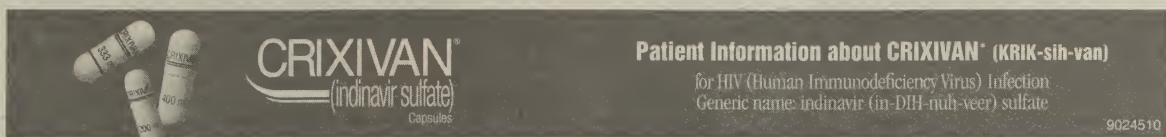
CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems.

As with other protease inhibitors, changes in body fat, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia, and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Additionally, severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients also taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor. For more detailed information about CRIXIVAN, please read the information immediately following this advertisement.

¹ Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), May 5, 1999.

**Remember to ask your
doctor about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays". If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
 2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
 3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
 4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
 5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
- Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
 - High cholesterol and you are taking cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins".

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This leaflet provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam)	HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride)	Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC)
ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)	isoniazid (INH)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)
BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	Methadone

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

RESCRIPTOR® (delavirdine) — If you take CRIXIVAN with RESCRIPTOR®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SPORANOX® (itraconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SPORANOX®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) — If you take CRIXIVAN with SUSTIVA®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Severe muscle pain and weakness have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors, including CRIXIVAN, together with some of the cholesterol-lowering medicines called "statins." Call your doctor if you develop severe muscle pain or weakness.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: allergic reactions; severe skin reactions; yellowing of the skin and/or eyes; heart problems including heart attack; abdominal swelling; indigestion; inflammation of the kidneys; inflammation of the pancreas; joint pain; depression; itching; hives; change in skin color; hair loss; ingrown toenails with or without infection; crystals in the urine; painful urination; and numbness of the mouth.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



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Issued September 1999
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Lesbians prefer older women, study says

by Ed Walsh

According to a new study, lesbians are much more likely than heterosexual women to prefer older partners while both heterosexual and homosexual men, as expected, prefer younger mates. The report also suggests "butch" men and women may be more likely to prefer younger partners.

Canadian psychologists showed pictures of 15 male and 15 female faces in ages ranging from 18 to 60 years old to 192 adult test subjects. Those being tested were divided into equal groups of heterosexual men, heterosexual women, homosexual men, and homosexual woman.

Gay women rated the female faces in the 42-60 age group as the most sexually attractive and were least likely to find the youngest women attractive.

Heterosexual women showed the greatest response to male faces in a 32-year-old age group, and found the 18-year-old faces the least sexually attractive. Straight women also gave low marks in attractiveness to men in the oldest category, finding them only slightly more attractive than 18-year-old men.

The most favorable response in gay men was to the 18-year-old male faces and the response was lowest to the oldest category of men near 60. Heterosexual men were most attracted to the female faces in the 25-year-old category and like their gay male counterparts, found the faces' attractiveness dropped with age. However gay men were significantly more likely than heterosexual men to be sexually attracted to the 30s and 40s age groups.

You might think that older people would find the older faces more attractive but the study found participants' age preferences were "weakly or unrelated"

to their own age. The average age of the participants was 33.

Researchers noted heterosexual men's preferences spiked at the 25-year-old age group, going up sharply from the youngest category and down again sharply to the next 28-year-old group. They suggest the 25-year-old female faces selected may have, by chance, been unusually attractive. They suggest the possible bias could be eliminated in follow-up studies by the use of pictures of the same individuals at different ages or by employing large random samples of faces from different age categories.

Other studies have shown that heterosexual men, independent of

their correlation of sexual partner age preference and the masculine-feminine (butch-fem) dimension among both homosexual men and women. "Based on the findings reported here, more masculine homosexuals of both sexes would be expected to prefer younger same-sex partners than would more feminine homosexuals," said the study published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. "It is also possible that more masculine heterosexuals of both sexes would prefer younger-aged opposite-sexed partners than would more feminine heterosexuals."

The head of San Francisco State University's Gay and Lesbian Studies Department and the edi-

The report suggests "butch" men and women may be more likely to prefer younger partners.

their age or culture, consistently perceived women aged 15-25 years to be most physically attractive, while heterosexual women perceived men aged 30-45 to be of greatest physical attractiveness.

"Evolution would favor men who favored female sexual partners of an age between maximum reproductive value and maximum fertility," the Canadian researchers said. "Other things being equal, evolution would likewise favor women who sought out men who possessed the social and material resources required to support children."

The researchers, from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, said they found lesbians' preference for older women the most surprising result of their study. They didn't expect gay women's age preferences to be more than 10 years older than the age group preferred by straight women.

The report also suggests a possi-

tor of the *Journal of Homosexuality*, John De Cecco, was skeptical of some of the Canadian researcher's findings. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* it was his observation most gay people chose partners in their own age group. De Cecco said he conducted a study of lesbians over 60 and found most had partners close to their own age.

De Cecco found the aspect of the study that rang most true was its assessment that masculine men and women prefer younger mates. "Butchness is an aspect of dominance and control," said De Cecco. "Part of that is the stereotypic belief that it's easier to control a younger person." ▼

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- **Dealing with the Social Aspects of Speed**
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ACT UP/SF

◀ page 1

to extend the orders for three years on June 2.

ACT UP/San Francisco member Derek St. Pierre, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* he will represent Pasquarelli in court on the criminal charges, as well as the other four until they obtain their own counsel, said that they will deny all allegations.

Trespassing is punishable by a maximum of six months in county jail and a \$1,000 fine, while the assault charges – if proven – carry a penalty of up to six months in jail, plus a \$2,000 fine.

The alleged attacks took place during a melee that ensued when the four and a few other members of the small, controversial propaganda group burst through meeting security and, according to numerous witnesses, immediately began shouting slogans, notably "You faggots deserve to die," as well as their trademark mantras, including their denialist "AIDS is over." Protesters also reportedly were spitting and throwing handfuls of hard pills into the audience and at the invited panelists.

The April 17 meeting was interrupted about half-way through the program featuring nationally recognized AIDS researchers and community activists discussing new developments in treatment strategies for the life-threatening disease.

The dissidents fled before police arrived.

The assault charges against Pasquarelli and Lindsay are related to reported attacks against two Project Inform staff members, Judy Leahy-Hogan and Freddie

Oaks Jr. According to the D.A.'s office, prosecutors will seek to prove in court that Pasquarelli pushed Leahy-Hogan, a meeting organizer, resulting in a minor injury to her knee when she tried to break up a scuffle between the protesters and audience members. Lindsay is accused of spitting repeatedly on Oaks, who helps staff Project Inform's national hotline.

When Project Inform and their two staff members filed charges against the four ACT UP members, San Francisco Police Department Inspector Lea Militello conducted a thorough investigation of the incident, and filed a report with the district attorney's office last week.

The public event at the Baha'i Center at 170 Valencia Street was attended by several dozen people with HIV/AIDS, many of whom assisted the SFPD in their preliminary investigation of the incident. Many participants and organizers reported feeling fearful and threatened by the sudden, surreal demonstration.

"I worked pretty tirelessly on this," Militello told the B.A.R.

At press time, however, the four had not yet been arrested by the SFPD.

Fred Gardner, spokesman for the district attorney's office told the B.A.R. that the D.A.'s office had been in touch with an attorney representing the accused who said that his clients would be turning themselves in voluntarily "within days."

The day after the incident, ACT UP/San Francisco issued a statement claiming that "the event exploded into pushing, punching, and spitting when ACT UP activists were attacked by Project Inform employees..."

The district attorney's office disagrees.

"In making these charging decisions, the D.A.'s focus was on whether public safety was affected and whether violence took place," said Gardner, who expressed confidence that prosecutors will be able to prove all charges in court beyond a reasonable doubt.

"The issue is the use of violence," Gardner said.



Project Inform's Avi Rose

"We're glad to see that the police department and the D.A. is taking seriously the kind of assaults that ACT UP/San Francisco has been committing against AIDS workers for years," commented Avi Rose, executive director at Project Inform.

Mike Donnelly, a member of Survive AIDS, has independently investigated ACT UP/San Francisco's formation of a GTT Trust, reported on in the May 4 B.A.R.

"It seems like they're scurrying like cockroaches when the light's turned on," commented Donnelly. ▼

AIDS bill

◀ page 1

medical community about current law, and 20 to 40 percent of mothers were not being offered the HIV test," said a spokeswoman for Pacheco. "This is a way to standardize the procedure, so that all women will receive the same care instead of some women feeling stigmatized or singled out for the test."

But how would removing the prenatal counseling option help women?

"We had no intention of doing away with counseling," said Pacheco's spokeswoman. "We were just starting out with something."

What they were starting out with was a bill that specifically stated, "Existing law requires prenatal care providers, as defined, to offer an HIV test, information, counseling, and referral services that include providing certain information to every pregnant woman patient during prenatal care. This bill would delete this provision."

Add that statement to a standard HIV test and it seems clear that there would have been testing without consent and counseling, but Pacheco refuted that possibility. "The original language didn't

have everything we wanted to put into it. We had always intended to amend that, to include counseling," Pacheco told the B.A.R. "I think the compromise is a good resolution. When we are able to protect the woman and save her child then we have accomplished our goal."

Now that the bill has been cleaned up, Hansen said that ALRP and CHAC have removed their opposition. The groups did not, however, come out in favor of the legislation. Both organizations will continue to monitor the bill as it moves through the state Senate. ▼

Correction

Due to interviews with misinformed sources, the Bay Area Reporter erroneously reported in the May 4 issue that AB2809 would test newborns for HIV ("A bad HIV bill and a good health forum"). In fact the original bill made no such provisions, but instead called for the testing of new mothers directly, without their consent. We regret the error. ▼

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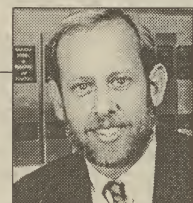
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Missing MMOW money

by Bob Roehr

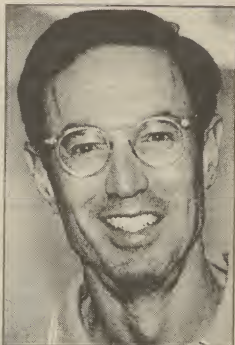
It appears that cash from the street festival portion of last month's Millennium March on Washington was late in being deposited in the bank, and some funds may well have disappeared. Nobody has a clue as to how much may be missing, but that has not stopped speculation from running as high as \$1 million.

Who absconded with bags full of dirty tens and twenties? By all accounts it must have been an inside job, but so far no names or faces have been attached to the deed. There have been numerous loud cries of not being able to meet financial obligations because of the deficit. Other than that, folks have entered into a quiet phase on advice of attorneys and the FBI.

Michelangelo Signorile broke the story of the missing moola in his debut splash as editor-at-large for Gay.com, on May 8. He wrote that MMOW attorney Michael "Boucher" is determined. Whether or not the FBI finds enough evidence to charge the suspects, he said MMOW will file a civil suit. "We want our money," he said forcefully.

Knowledge of the history of the MMOW is integral to understanding the byzantine cast of players in this melodrama. Last fall when hopes for corporate largess fell flat, the event producer was fired, and the MMOW board realized it had few financial resources, it looked elsewhere for money to pay for the swiftly approaching event.

Malcolm Lazin, who resigned



Malcolm Lazin

from the non-paying board to become a paid co-director of the MMOW, had experience as producer of Pride Fest in Philadelphia. He proposed a street festival to generate revenue for the main event.

An area would be fenced off, sponsors would pay to display their wares or their corporate good will, vendors would share their profits from sales of food and tchotchkes, and the great sunburned masses would "donate" \$5 for the privilege of entering this chain-linked cornucopia of pride.

MMOW realized it did not have the skills, connections, or financial resources to organize the event itself. So they subcontracted it out. Fortunately for them they had another board member who was willing to resign from the non-paying board to take a sole-source contract that was not put out for bid.

Joe Ucles was from Washing-

ton, D.C. Over the years he had organized a series of highly successful dungeon dances, and had worked his way up to running the local gay pride day on that very same Pennsylvania Avenue. He knew what permits were needed and who the vendors were, it wouldn't be that big of a step up to go "national."

In an agreement signed on March 28, a mere month before the march, the nonprofit MMOW contracted with Ucles's profit-making Millennium Productions LLC (MP) to run the festival. Profits from it would be shared 65-35, with MMOW receiving the larger portion.

Among the more than 40 clauses to the document was a small one which read: "MP shall: ... Carry and maintain general liability insurance of no less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) covering the Festival, with MMOW named as an additional insured."

Two weeks before the March, MP was desperate for cash needed to put on the festival. It went to Lazin, the man fired from the position of MMOW co-director a few months prior, and pleaded for a loan. It got \$400,000.

About 10 days later it repaid Lazin \$500,000. The difference was to cover the cost of the loan and, according to Signorile's sources, allow some money to be returned to the community. Most vendors at the festival and the MMOW have yet to be paid.

What is the truth behind the flurry of claims and accusations? The FBI is sorting it out, and they ain't saying. ▼

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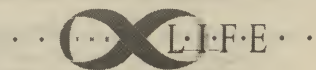
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Chile's HIV/AIDS issues

by Homer Hobi, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

I just returned from a three-week trip to Chile. From San Francisco, I have been running a program that supplies AIDS medications to an organization there for the past two years.

According to UNAIDS at the end of 1999, an estimated 1.7 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean were infected with HIV/AIDS; of these, 30,000 were children. During 1999, there were 207,000 new HIV infections in the region. Cumulative adult and child AIDS deaths number 780,000.

Officially, Chile has a very minor HIV/AIDS problem given the population of the region. According to an article in the main newspaper of Chile (*El Mercurio*, March 14, 2000) there are only 15,000 people with HIV/AIDS in Chile in a population of 15 million. They have a similar epidemic profile as San Francisco in that approximately 85 percent of people with HIV are men who have sex with men.

But government statistics often are misleading. Discrimination towards people with AIDS runs rampant within Chilean society, and often skews statistics. If employers discover that someone is HIV-positive, that person is fired.

Because of anti-discrimination laws against this practice, the claimed reason for job termination is never HIV. I spoke to a host of PWAs who lost their jobs: three from the Carbineros (national po-

lice), a former executive at a British company, and others. They suddenly receive unfavorable job reviews, or some other reason pops up for their being fired. For the PWA it becomes more difficult to get a new job; they are required to get an HIV test and they now have an unfavorable report from their ex-employer.

Additionally Chile has a names-based reporting system. The only way to get an anonymous test is to know someone at a laboratory and pay for the test yourself. Given the high level of discrimination, people are very resistant to getting tested. The net effect is to increase the overall risk level

of the population: if Chileans do not know that they have AIDS, they will behave as if they do not.

I felt a certain amount of déjà vu in reading Bill Snow's April 13 Survive AIDS column in which he wrote about the barriers to Latino gay and bisexual men in having safe sex: "machismo, homophobia, family cohesion (close personal involvement with homophobic families), sexual silence, poverty." One PWA who invited me to his home to have lunch with his parents told me that they know about his HIV status but he had never told them he was gay. He is 49 years old and lives at home with his upper middle class parents. Another PWA, whose sister moved to the Bay Area with her lesbian partner to have a child, told me that about 80 percent of his gay friends think that it is a horrible idea for them to have a baby. The amount of self-hatred is enormous. Most gay men in Chile assume that their partner is of the same serostatus, which makes unsafe sex permissible. Condoms are only available in drugstores and they are expensive (they cost between 50 cents to \$1 while the minimum wage is around \$300 per month).

The resistance to getting tested means that people generally find out their status either through mandatory testing or when they are taken to the hospital with PCP. I spoke to a lot of people with HIV/AIDS and not one found out through voluntary testing. Most gay Chileans feel that it is better not to know. The concept of knowing as soon as possible because you can take actions before you become sick only exists in

some forgotten recesses of collective gay Chile's memory. This puts people who are at risk in a situation of double jeopardy. For those in the private health system, once insurance companies receive a person's HIV diagnosis they begin

procedures to terminate the PWA's policy. (Of course, not for having HIV).

Even though people feel that health care is better in the private system, coverage does not include HIV medications. The public health system, which cares for 80 percent of Chilean society, does have a small program of providing HIV medications. However, the waiting list can take up to two years. The program only covers some 750 people with bithérapie (two nucleoside inhibitors) and some 700 people with triple therapy (a protease inhibitor and two nucleosides). For the people who find out that they are positive by going to the hospital with PCP, their situation is of dire need. They are at a moment when they need medications but cannot get them. And if they have private health coverage, they usually lose that within a few months.

Unlike here, Chilean PWAs are constantly worried about how they are going to get their medications in the coming months.

Additionally, because of the high level of discrimination against gays in general and specif-

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OBITUARIES

Kiyoshi Kuromiya, gay activist and AIDS treatment advocate, dies at 57

by Liz Highleyman

Last Wednesday, May 10, pioneering gay activist and AIDS treatment advocate Kiyoshi Kuromiya died from complications of AIDS and cancer in a Pennsylvania hospital, one day after his 57th birthday.

Mr. Kuromiya, who was born in 1943 in Wyoming in a U.S. government internment camp for people of Japanese descent, was a longtime social justice activist. In the 1960s and 1970s he took part in the civil rights struggle —

which resulted in a beating by sheriff's deputies during a voter registration march in Montgomery, Alabama — and was active in the anti-Vietnam War movement.

Mr. Kuromiya was also an early gay rights activist, beginning in the mid-1960s. He was a founder of the Philadelphia chapter of the Gay Liberation Front, and was one of the few openly gay delegates to a Black Panther convention that endorsed gay liberation.

In addition to his activism, Mr. Kuromiya traveled with well-

known architect R. Buckminster Fuller and helped him complete his last books. He was an master of Kundalini yoga and an excellent Scrabble player.

Beginning in the 1980s, Mr. Kuromiya became active in the AIDS advocacy movement. He was a founder of ACT UP/Philadelphia and a member of We the People Living With AIDS. Diagnosed with AIDS himself in 1989, Mr. Kuromiya participated in direct action, worked to make anti-HIV drugs more available and affordable, and fought to involve people with AIDS in community-based research. He was an editor of the *ACT UP Standard of Care*, the first such standard produced by people living with the disease.

In keeping with his philosophy that "information is power," Mr. Kuromiya founded the Critical Path AIDS Project (www.critpath.org), which produced its first treatment newsletter in 1989. He foresaw the Internet as a primary means of information exchange well before it became a household word, and Critical Path has provided free Internet services since 1992, evolving from bulletin boards to electronic mailing lists to Web sites. Philadelphia FIGHT, the fiscal sponsor of Critical Path, said the project's work would continue under the leadership of in-

terim director Julie Davids, an ACT UP/Philadelphia member and founder of Project TEACH.

In 1996, Critical Path was among the several plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the Communications Decency Act, a measure designed to prevent the transmission of sexually explicit material over the Internet. Kuromiya testified before a federal district court that the measure could prevent dissemination of frank information about AIDS; in 1997, the Supreme Court declared the CDA unconstitutional.

More recently, Mr. Kuromiya was the lead plaintiff in a federal class-action lawsuit that sought to extend a U.S. government program that provided medicinal marijuana on a compassionate use basis; that lawsuit was dismissed by a federal judge in December 1999. Mr. Kuromiya was a longtime advocate of complementary therapies, and he ran a club called Transcendental Meditation that provided free medicinal cannabis to those in need.

Mr. Kuromiya is survived by his mother, Amiko, and a brother and sister. A memorial service will be held this Tuesday, May 23 at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany in Philadelphia. Memorial donations may be made to an activist organization of the donor's choice. ▼



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Gay Health Care Since 1979

Medical pot maven Hazel Rodgers dies

by Cynthia Laird

Hazel Rodgers, who took over for Dennis Peron and ran one of the many versions of the Cannabis Buyers Club in San Francisco in the late 1990s, died Sunday, May 14, at the age of 81. Peron and Ms. Rodgers's daughter, Teresa Leigh Roberts, said that apparently Ms. Rodgers died of old age.

"On Mother's Day, old age had its way with Hazel Rodgers, who turned 81 on April 20. She was known to some as 'Granma Ganja,' thus being called never failed to bring a smile to her face," wrote Roberts on Peron's Web site (www.marijuana.org).

Ms. Rodgers also was known as the "poster girl" of the medical

cannabis movement. People all over the world have seen photos of her lighting up her beloved cannabis, her daughter said.

Ms. Rodgers left Norfolk, Nebraska in 1937 with a one-way train ticket to San Francisco. She arrived in time for the World's Fair on Treas-

ure Island and to walk on the Golden Gate Bridge on opening day.

She met John Leigh Rodgers, a native San Franciscan, poet, and a welding teacher at the California Labor School. They married in 1941, and their daughter, Teresa,

page 23 ►



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Frutcheys celebration Friday

A celebration of the life of Chuck Frutcheys, the former president of the Stop AIDS Project's board of directors, will be held this Friday, May 19 in San Francisco. Frutcheys died April 21 at the age of 46. His obituary was published in the May 4 *Bay Area Reporter*.

The celebration begins at 7 p.m. and people interested in attending should call (415) 487-3073 for more information. Donations to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or the Stop AIDS Project are preferred. ▼

— Cynthia Laird

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Play grounds

by Jim Provenzano

"Knowledge arises neither from objects nor the child, but from interactions between the child and those objects." - Jean Piaget

Do you remember the day when it was pointed out to you that skipping rope with the girls was "inappropriate?"

Do you recall the day when it was pointed out to you that "girls don't play softball?"

"The 3- to 7-year-old child is in the 'pre-operational stage,' according to Piaget's philosophy of child development." Language is an important part of the pre-operational child's life. Just look at the tremendous difference in vocabulary between that of a 3-year-old and a 7-year-old. There is an increase in the ability to effectively communicate thoughts, ideas, and needs. Not only is the child using verbal communication, but he is beginning to use written communication. As any adult can see by looking at their own life, both verbal and written communication are important in all aspects of later life."

I'm trying to remember the day when I switched from diving into sports to cautiously realizing my lack of comfort in it.

I'm trying to figure out what prevents us from reclaiming our bodies from those who say sports aren't ours.

I'm trying to dribble a basketball in a park in the Panhandle.

I'm trying on new sneakers.

"Socially, a child in the pre-operational stage is egocentric. The egocentric child is unable to look at things from a perspective other than his own. As the child has more experience and interactions, he will be able to look at things from other perspectives. The 3- to 7-year-old child will begin real life problem solving when given the opportunity to do so. Socially, the child is developing through interactions with adults and other children. This is the reason that social and language development are closely linked together."

How many of you resigned yourselves to never appreciating the feeling of your body racing across a field chasing a ball for no particular reason, because the shouted calls of "fagit" stung all too true, while others shook it off?

How many of you have reclaimed your bodies on gay and lesbian sports teams?

How many of you have yet to do it?

How many of you realize that this is the reason you smoke, or drink, or do drugs, or refuse to allow your body to do what it was made to do, run and play and sweat and stretch?

As the name calling and fraudulent accusation made by the thieves who robbed us of who-knows-how-many thousands in cash from the Millennium "Festival" plays across the news blips,



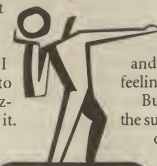
Kiddies at the Millennium March Family Center.

crassly produced by Jose Ucles's for-profit company (yeah, now unaccountably for-profit), I wonder who the new bullies are, and if they aren't the real fagits.

I didn't pay, thank you. Somebody else gave me her wristband.

But even leaving that fenced-in compound had its troubles. I saw the kids bouncing up and down in

the inflatable thingy, and remembered being that small, and loving the momentary feeling of flight.



Sports
Complex

But then it was late, and the sun arced long and golden over the Washington Monument. A thick-necked obese rent-a-cop did his homophobic best to ruin my day by arbitrarily preventing my passing through a 10-foot wide exit where, in retrospect, employees were no doubt bagging wads of cash for their own pursuits.

Why can't I leave this way? I asked.

"Because I gots de badge."

He could barely speak, the fat in his neck so clogged his throat.

Because I gots de badge.

"The pre-operational child is able to represent what he has learned or discovered. This is the result of a development of logic. The child has figured out that objects stay the same. In addition, they have figured out that something other than the object can represent the object. This allows children to understand symbols and their meanings. Common ways that children play in a symbolic manner include painting, drawing, writing, and using objects to represent something else."

I got to meet Corey Johnson in D.C.

Corey Johnson, star child, 16 years old, *New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, 20/20 poster child for gay jock rights, and with more guts than over one dozen closeted pro sports jocks whose names I've heard bandied about, but whose identities I keep secret, even from the dearest of pals, not out of any journalistic code, or promise of a scoop, but out of sheer disdain.

Disdain for a multi-millionaire who would sooner dive into a false marriage than admit what little cute Corey can do with relative ease, and become a hero.

Every day, transgender and faggy little kids are suing the cash out of corrupt born-again-infected school boards, for their right to form gay-straight alliances, or dance at their proms.

You know what city has gay-straight alliances in every public school in its town? Not San Francisco. Not New York.

Iowa City.

Iowa City, and Madison, Wisconsin, and Columbus, Ohio are progressing at light speeds beyond this Bay town steeped in newspaper mayoral muck and corruption and backlogged brouhaha. See, if you'd just voted for Tom, this all would have been last year's dirty laundry. Thanks, Clint, for pointing out to us who the lunchroom bully is.

"The developmentally appropriate classroom environment is one where children most often:

Lead ... rather than follow the teacher.

Create ... rather than duplicate.

Move ... rather than wait.

Make the lines ... rather than color in the lines.

Speak ... rather than listen passively.

Initiate ... rather than imitate.

Raise questions ... rather than answer the teacher's questions.

Solve their own problems ... rather than the teacher's problems.

Make art ... rather than do crafts.

Emphasize the process ... rather than the product.

Use authentic skills ... rather than drill and practice.

Make books ... rather than fill in workbooks.

Decide ... rather than submit.

Choose wisely ... rather than being told.

Make a plan ... rather than follow the teacher's plan.

Try again ... rather than fail."

From: *The Butterfly Garden: Developmentally Appropriate Practice Defined*, Crosser, Early Childhood News, July/August 1996.

When choosing sides for basketball, did Janis Ian always get picked last, so that now, she could be picked first, when we consider great lesbian songstress?

What does Corey Johnson have that _____ of the _____ lacks?

Courage.

The courage to simply instill understanding, to simply not have any more room in his locker for lies.

It's the spirit of kids like Corey that will save lives, a spirit that says, no more.

The right of kids to play without harm.

It's not too much to ask. ▼

Gay grapplers

Golden Gate Wrestling Club's Annual Freestyle Wrestling Tournament takes place this weekend at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood. Events include social gatherings, practices, rules clinics, a trip to the Concord Cup International Greco Tournament, tasty dinner parties, and lots lesbian and gay wrestlers! For more info, contact wrestler@pacbell.net, visit their Web site at <http://www.metaldesign.com/ggwc> or call (415) 821-2991. ▼

The Importance of Play by Jill M. Davis, from which some of this material came from, can be read at: <http://www.galstar.com/~davi/ImportanceofPlay.html>.

Africa

◀ page 14

cently declared AIDS a national security threat, and has requested \$342 million for bilateral international HIV/AIDS assistance. The World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan is a multilateral effort that includes the private sector. The bill authorizes \$100 million per year for the next five years to a World Bank-administered fund. The fund also would accept and encourage donations from other governments and the private sector.

The advocacy group AIDS Action praised Congress' action. "While most experts believe it will take more than \$5 billion to slow the epidemic in Africa alone, we are excited about this down pay-

ment," said Claudia French, acting executive director.

AIDS Action also praised Lee and Leach for working in bipartisan cooperation. "It's rare when an issue is so powerful and clear-cut that it inspires Democrats and Republicans alike. We applaud Representatives Leach and Lee for working together to slow the AIDS epidemic in Africa," French added.

The recent U.S. response to the AIDS emergency in Africa follows increased media attention to the epidemic that has claimed more than 14 million lives in sub-Saharan Africa through the end of last year. Nearly 24 million Africans were living with HIV at the end of 1999. Globally, experts believe more than 50 million people are infected with HIV. ▼

Survive AIDS

◀ page 20

ically against PWAs, very few people are willing to commit to any sort of activism. Because of this and the relatively small number of people with HIV, the government can afford to simply leave things as they are. Meanwhile PWAs die. During the whole trip felt like I was in a time warp, being transported back to the beginning of the epidemic here.

The AIDS Medicine Recycling of Positive Humanists & Friends is supplying medications to some 50 people in Chile. Although this is not a solution to the problem, it is

lifesaving support for those who receive the medications. We are also trying to get the PWAs there to pressure the government to provide medications, through working with legislators, lawsuits, and street demonstrations. Until the government does its part, you can help by giving us your extra, unused medications. Call for details (415) 285-0606 or e-mail me at hobi@humanist.org. ▼

For more information, check out the Positive Humanists & Friends - AIDS Medicine Recycling Project report at www.humanist.org/~hobi or at www.geo.to/aidsrx. ▼

Hazel Rodgers

◀ page 21

was born in 1945. The young family had to take a beach cottage in Stinson Beach because post-war housing was so scarce in San Francisco. Her son, Christian, was born in Marin County in 1949; her other son, Leigh, arrived in 1953, with the family back once again in San Francisco.

Ms. Rodgers spent the major part of her career as the private secretary to Anthony Ramos, head of what was then called the California State Council of Carpenters. She retired several times to pursue other venues, but always returned to her job until she finally retired in 1986.

In 1993, Ms. Rodgers was diagnosed with glaucoma. She knew that marijuana is thought to ease intra-ocular pressure, the symptom of glaucoma that eventually leads to blindness. Without a great deal of difficulty, Ms. Rodgers located the San Francisco Cannabis Club and signed herself up. She met Peron and began what would

be a close friendship and working relationship with him.

She and Peron appeared on numerous television and radio shows, and have been featured in many newspaper and magazine articles, using the media to promote the cause for the legalization of marijuana for medical use.

After the infamous state Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement raid of Peron's Market Street cannabis club, Ms. Rodgers became director of the new club that opened in the same Market Street building in 1998. That club was eventually closed later that year.

Ms. Rodgers and Peron also celebrated their birthdays together, on April 20, making it a significant day to medical cannabis supporters.

"Many people have been inspired by Hazel's friendliness, humor, and good-natured acceptance of others and her steadfast support of the medical cannabis movement," her daughter stated.

Ms. Rodgers is survived by her children; and four grandchildren, Albion, Sierra, Christa, and David.

A memorial is being planned. ▼

Hospitals

◀ page 3

Guy, president of the Health Commission, "but it has become a smaller and smaller part of it."

The number of uninsured acute care patients treated at SFGH grew by 35 percent in recent years, from 4,284 patients in fiscal year 1993-94 to 5,783 patients in fiscal 1998-99.

Guy and Health Director Mitch Katz said that the city must look at the level of so-called charity care claimed by nonprofit hospitals and determine whether it is truly health care, or merely public relations expenditures.

Other witnesses, including an ambulance driver and a few of the cited hospitals' front-line workers, reinforced the financial data with personal testimonials of the hospitals' unwritten policies of actively dumping uninsured patients on the emergency room at SFGH on Potrero Street.

Attempting to stave off supervisory intervention, including a suggestion being floated that nonprofit hospitals be required provide a minimum level of charity care for the poor in order to maintain some of their tax breaks, perhaps forcing them to keep pace with the national average of 3 percent, Nathan Nayman of the Hospital Council of Northern/Central California mounted a rhetorical defense of his association's member hospitals.

"Take note," lobbyist Nayman exclaimed to a stern-faced Kaufman and Ammann, as the crowd hissed behind him, "the path you are taking is extremely dangerous and may precipitate the next health care crisis." ▼

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Photo by: James Scott Geras

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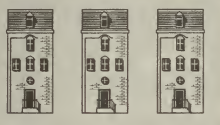
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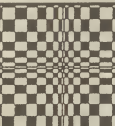
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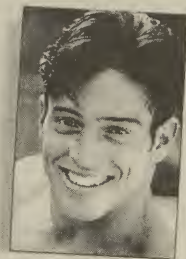
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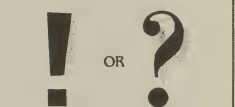
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page 32



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 20 • 18 May 2000

Shelf life

Books for thrillseekers and layabouts by Roberto Friedman

Reading is our most redeeming vice. We say vice because we don't read virtuously, we read voluptuously. This week, some of our arts writers have been hitting the books, and in these pages they share a few friends currently in print, like guru Ram Dass, thrillseeker Lawrence of Arabia, social climber Eve Harrington, and TV careerist Kevin Williamson — what a motley cast of characters it is!

It's almost enough to distract us from our own recreational reading. Yes, the volumes pile up on our nighttable; yes, they tumble right down. Let's take a moment to rake up a few of the leaves.

Los Angeles writer Dennis Cooper's new book from Grove, called *Period*, is just over 100 pages long, the fifth

stroke in his pentagram of brilliant, evil novels — the others were *Closer*, *Frisk*, *Try* and *Guide*. This one is stripped-down, aesthetically spare, its story more elusive but no less gruesome. It's a poem in the form of a horror story.

If you want a taste of what's young and hot, look at the boy portrayed in duplicate on *Period*'s dust cover. He's 20-year-old author JT LeRoy, who, using the handle *Terminator*, published his first stories when he was 16. His debut novel, *Sarah* (Bloomsbury), is set in the kind of West Virginia truck stop worked by a fleet of tranny hookers. *The New York Times Book Review* called it "Alice in Wonderland on acid."

Not all novelists are in the first blush of youth. James (Mawrdew Czgowchwz) McCourt breaks a longish silence since his last book, *Time Remain-*

ing, with the tangy new *Delancey's Way* (Knopf). The fun of reading McCourt is not in any plot as much as it is in the cleverness of the writing, almost too clever by half. His latest is a Washington, DC novel, if one wants to use that clumsy term (the author calls it a "debriefing"), and it's filled with allusions to that fabled, corrupt, imperial city, from movies, books and history.

The "rich enclave of the northern South" is replete with a full cast of McCourtier characters, including a sexually profligate President (POTUS) and a call-boy who gives good phone to Congressmen.

Certainly one of the gems of this week's bookpile is a collection of essays on the life and work of author Christopher Isherwood, *The Isherwood Century*, edited by James J. Berg and

page 30 ►



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Shelf life

◀ Arts cover

Chris Freeman. Published by a university press (Wisconsin), the book has its share of contributions from scholars; but as its editors concede, literary theorists are not necessarily Isherwood's best audience. Also between these covers are essays by those who knew him in life as well as on the page, and the topics of discussion include Isherwood's Vedantic philosophy.

San Francisco author **Armistead Maupin** contributes a charming and personal introduction to the volume, calling Isherwood a mentor in ways that include the example of his May/December coupledom with artist **Don Bachardy**. Bachardy is represented by entries from his 1955 journals, which form a fascinating complement to Isherwood's own celebrated diaries. In a telling pas-



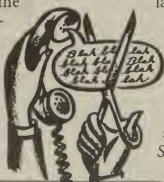
sage about the rude way author **W. Somerset Maugham's** companion **Alan Searle** was treated (by Maugham's family, among others), Bachardy vents: "How true it is ... all who take the trouble to have an intimate relationship with any famous artist almost always find themselves universally suspected, bitched, even hated, and finally ignored." Certainly not the fate to befall Bachardy in the years after Isherwood's death.

We've barely made a dent in the bookpile, and must defer 'til later examination **David Leddick's** "triography" of photographer **George Platt Lynes**, New York City Ballet co-founder **Lincoln Kirstein** and painter **Paul Cadmus**, *Intimate Companions* (St. Martin's), as well as smasho new bios of no less than film goddesses **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Mae West**. To be continued.

The wet look

If you're feeling the urge to hang ten, you could brave the icy

Pacific out at the beach, or you could tour *Surf Trip*, the survey of surf culture art and artifacts now at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. The show's opening



Out There

last weekend was groovy with surfer types, and the vibes were mel-low. Surf bands **Pollo Del Mar** and **Jumbo Shrimp** rocked out, and flicks screened from *The Sick Six: Six of the Most Important Surf Movies Ever Made*.

YBC's large gallery was filled with vintage surfboards and 25 rather threatening life-size hula dolls by artist **Kevin Ancell** —

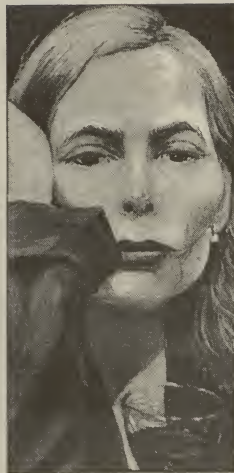


Hula doll created by Kevin Ancell

dolls with weaponry and apparently the will to use it. But we think our readers will be most captivated by artist **Tracey Moffatt's** tantalizing *Heaven* (1997), a video, peeping-Tom style, of surfers changing into and out of their wetsuits. Out There calls that Surf 'n' Turf!

Stop the presses

Only immortal singer/songwriter **Joni Mitchell** would open a concert by having the Philharmonic play ten minutes of **Igor**



Joni Mitchell, a self-portrait

Stravinsky. Then Joni took the stage and launched into the Big Band standards from her new CD, *Both Sides Now* (Reprise), chestnuts like "You're My Thrill" and "Stormy Weather." She made them her own, treating the adoring audience to older, wiser versions of "A Case of You" and the title song; then, still with orchestra, "Hejira" and two songs from *For The Roses*.

Joni introduced the band, including jazz piano legend **Herbie Hancock**, composer **Mark Isham** on trumpet, music director and ex-hubbie **Larry Klein** (whom she called "Klein"), maestro-arranger **Vince Mendoza** and soloists from the orchestra, then got to herself: "I'm the Chirp!" But so much more than just the Chirp.

The concert last Sat. night was ridiculously far away, at the newly-dubbed *Chronicle* Concord Pavilion. OT was unhappy to see the *Chron's* already overexposed **Little Man** emblazoned on the venue's signage. It made us fall out of our chair with disgust.

Headline of the week in the *New York Times*: "Britain Sends Out Wave After Wave of Fresh Hunks." No, it's not from the Business section, smarties, it's from the Arts & Leisure (we call it the Sports) section. Thesis amply illustrated, with photos of fresh meat **Dougray Scott** (*M: I-2*), **Jason Isaacs** (*The Patriot*), and the somewhat seasoned but still

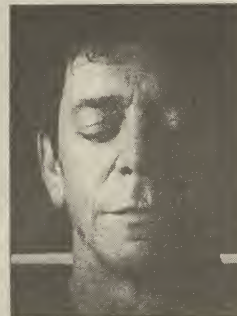


Yummy British actor Jude Law

delectable **Jude Law** (*The Wisdom of Crocodiles*). If the *Times* is going to go into the male pulchritude business, we might as well throw in the towel.

Dropped hairpins

To our eulogy last week for Hollywood muscledaddy/erstwhile Hercules **Steve Reeves**, we must add that there was no mention of a wife or children in the obituary we saw, which was apparently phoned in by a male companion. Hmmm.



Lou Reed

Walk on the Papal side

We understand rock 'n' roll veteran **Lou Reed** recently played at a Mass in Rome opened by the **Pope**. We'd say that's a pretty wild tour date in support of his latest CD *Ecstasy* (Reprise). The new disc is okay, especially the contributions on electric violin by Reed's keeper squeeze **Laurie Anderson**. But we'd say the 18-minute-plus

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MAGAZINE

THEATRE

'S Obscure

'Funny Face' opens 42nd St. Moon season

by Richard Dodds

She performed in one of Broadway's most notorious flops, but she also directed a production that helped resurrect another of Broadway's notable failures. Now Bonnie Hellman is directing one of the biggest Broadway hits that no one has ever seen. At least not in years and years.

Funny Face, which opened in 1927, is chock full of great Gershwin songs that have lived on even as their vehicle has faded away. It was a rarity when it was last staged 20 years ago, and rights were permanently withdrawn when *My One and Only* was assembled from the songs and bits of the book.

After more than a year of negotiations and the personal intercession of the Ira Gershwin estate, 42nd Street Moon has received permission to open its 2000 season of "lost musicals" with *Funny Face*. It opens, appropriately, at the Gershwin Theatre on May 18 for a six-performance run.

"I love obscure musicals," said director Bonnie Hellman, who has performed in several herself on Broadway, including famous floperoo *The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall*. "And this one is so cute. Some of the jokes are so corny that you just have to say, 'That's so sweet.'"

But Hellman was surprised when the script arrived. "I thought I knew the show," she said, "but this was something I had never seen before."

The original 1927 production starred Fred and Adele Astaire, and though Fred Astaire was in the 1957 movie that bore the *Funny Face* name and used four of its songs, the plots are completely different. In the stage version, Adele played the ingenue Frankie, ward of Jimmie Reeve (Fred's role), who persuades an aviator to steal her incriminating diary from Jimmie's wall safe. When the aviator mistakenly steals a bracelet, a mad chase has all the characters ending up in Atlantic City.

The songs by George and Ira Gershwin are what have lived on, songs like "S Wonderful," "High Hat," "My One and Only," "He Loves and She Loves," and "The Babbitt and the Bromide."

"When we do something like *Call Me Madam*, it's less of a surprise," said 42nd Street Moon artistic director Greg MacKellan. "But with a show like *Funny Face*, people get to see how these songs that have become such a part of our cultural fabric were first heard."

Of course, the original production was also an excuse for the Astaires to dance.

"Every number has dancing in it," Hellman said, "and if you're going to show what *Funny Face* was all about, you have to have dances."

A dance-heavy show can be a challenge for 42nd Street Moon, which presents its "staged concerts" with minimal sets and sometimes just the suggestions of what the original dance numbers looked like. But starting last year with *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, 42nd Street Moon stages one of its productions in the larger confines of the Gershwin Theatre, using a small orchestra and a few more production details. In the case of

Martin Lewis in *Funny Face*

Funny Face, noted Bay Area choreographer Berle Davis has put the cast of 18 through their paces.

All of this has to be done with just two weeks of rehearsal, and one reason MacKellan chose Hellman as director is because of her experience with abbreviated rehearsal schedules. "I worked at the Sacramento Music Circus in one-week stock," she said. "I learned to be fast and efficient."

Hellman, who grew up in Palo Alto and graduated from San Jose State, headed right for New York to be an actress. There was steady work, but after such short-lived shows as *Utter Glory* and *Once a Catholic* led to a regular role on the shot-in-New York TV series *Nurse*, her agent convinced her to make the move to Los Angeles, where more TV work beckoned, and where she fell into directing by accident.

She was in a production of *Merrily We Roll Along* that was clearly floundering under its producer-director. With 13 days until opening, she suggested that she withdraw from the cast and become the director. The offer was accepted, and the production became such a success that it started the renewed interest in the Stephen Sondheim-Hal Prince Broadway flop. "I didn't have time to worry," she said. "I just had to do it."

Commercials and TV guest spots have become her bread and butter, and that helps pay the bills when she's directing or acting in the theater. Hellman has one of those faces that you think you've seen, and probably have.

"When kids recognize me, I know it's from *Friday the 13th Part IV*," she said. "In that one, I got my throat slit while eating a banana."

For more information on 42nd Street Moon's *Funny Face*, call 441-3687.

A shining Light

Judith Light, the star of *Wit* at the Curran Theatre, is fabled for her support of AIDS and other gay-friendly causes. She even peddled all the way from San Francisco to Los Angeles on the California AIDS Ride. This week she is hosting a benefit for Q-Spirit, a group dedicated to helping the lesbian and gay community reconnect with its spiritual heritage.

"Q-Spirit is an essential organization because queer people are an important part of the world's spiritual leadership," said Light, who hosted a similar benefit during her New York run in Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

The benefit includes the May 20 performance of *Wit*, followed

by a private reception with the star. Tickets to the play and reception are \$100, and for those who may have already seen the play, reception-only tickets are \$50. For more information call 281-9377.

Trial by puppet

A news story that rocked Dallas last year has found an unlikely theatrical outlet in San Francisco as a puppet show. Lunatique Fantastique is presenting *Snake in the Basement: The Prosecution of Rev. Bill Pruitt*, opening May 19 in the Exit Theatre Café.

In the show, Leibe Wetzel and four other black-clad puppeteers use newspaper, napkins, cardboard and a candle to present an impression of Bill Pruitt's life, while drawing from newspaper accounts and anecdotes by those who knew the prominent pastor.

Pruitt, who died last August at 88, was accused during the last year of his life of sexually abusing girls during his 1960s missionary work in Africa. Last year, six women pressed their complaints to North Texas Presbyterian authorities, claiming to have been molested as girls in Congo, where Pruitt worked with their parents as missionaries.

When their charges appeared in the *Dallas Morning News*, San Francisco puppeteer Liebe Wetzel, who was reared in the Dallas area, came forward with her own set of accusations against Pruitt.

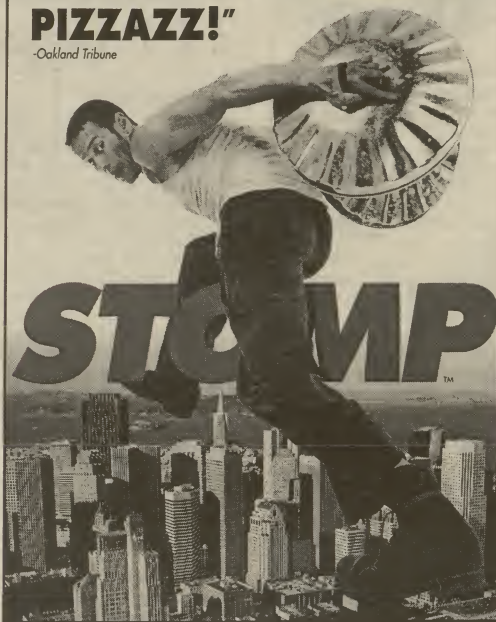
According to her statements reported in the *Dallas Morning News*, Wetzel claims to have been abused frequently in the 1970s when Pruitt served as an associate minister at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. No criminal charges were filed, and following his death, church authorities closed their investigation.

Wetzel has chosen to reopen the case on her own terms and in her own medium. The show comes with an advisory that its mature content makes it unsuitable for children. Last year, Wetzel and her Lunatique Fantastique ensemble drew favorable attention with *Naked Foam and Other Objects in Predicaments* at the San Francisco Fringe Festival and the Marsh. Tickets: call (510) 508-1615. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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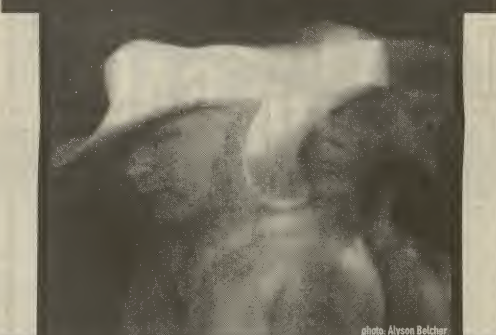


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The King and the boy toy

A.C.T.'s very gay 'Edward II'

by Richard Dodds

It may be a relative newcomer to these parts, but I'm pretty sure that Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II* is the gayest production ever seen at A.C.T.

One runner-up might be *The Invention of Love*, but that was by a straight playwright (Tom Stoppard) and staged by a straight director (Carey Perloff), and it focused on a man (A.E. Housman) who never got it on with the chap he loved. Even *Angels in America* by gay playwright Tony Kushner was pretty much a heterosexual interpretation of that flamboyant play.

We may not know if Marlowe was what we now call gay, but it's certain that he was queer. And there is no mistaking that director Mark Lamos brings a gay vision to the proceedings, which is never shy about the human body or about affection, love, and lust between men.

It's heartening that A.C.T. has

made the commitment to go full-throttle with Lamos' we're-here-we're-queer approach, even though some subscribers are bound to squawk. But for all its sensationalistic trappings — large mirrors are even provided to make sure no body parts are overlooked in the sex scenes — the production seldom really throbs.

Part of the problem comes with the cast, a competent lot headed by Malcolm Gets as Edward II, but an ensemble generally lacking in the kind of take-no-notice skills that energize a production. And some of the trouble may actually fall to Lamos, who promotes the obvious to the point where a kind of blandness begins to set in amid the sex, violence, bright lights, and pop tunes.

Lamos and dramaturg Paul Walsh have massaged Marlowe's text, combining and eliminating characters, clarifying obscurities in the language, and inventing scenes to complement the original dialogue. When, for example, the peasant known as Gaveston receives a letter from the new king inviting him to share the royal life, Marlowe has him reading it alone while Lamos puts him in the middle of an orgy. Nor is it likely that Marlowe's actors simulated pissing on one another.

Golden showers

For a play written at the end of the 16th century, Marlowe's characters are amazingly matter of fact about this M4M attraction. If only Gaveston wasn't a commoner, the other nobles lament. If only the king didn't shower the country's riches on his boy toy. If only Edward paid as much attention to running the country as he did to mooning over Gaveston. Never: if only the king were fooling around with a woman instead.

The fact is, Edward is a terrible king, almost comically so in Marlowe's retelling of history, and it's hard to blame homophobia for his fall, though his assassination by hot-poker buggery was a punishment devised for his crimes against heterosexual nature. Lamos tries to suggest a world in which straight-male bonding is somehow threatened by Edward's actions, but it can be a struggle.

Beaver Bauer's costumes, which provide variations on a theme by Mr. S, don't really help. Everyone looks like they're headed to the Folsom Street Fair, and it's

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Malcolm Gets holds Christopher Baker with Gregory Wallace in *Edward II*

Castled 'Two Days'

by Richard Dodds

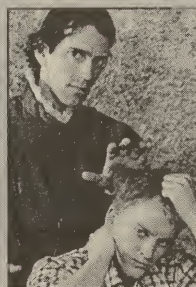
There are two interesting stories lurking in *Two Days of Grace* at Middleham, but it's hard to figure out what they're doing in the same play.

Playwright Toni Press-Coffman provides ostensible connections between her revisionist take on *Richard III* and a contemporary gay love story. "I have a few drops of Pantagenet blood," says a haunted-by-history young Brit to the American tourist he meets at King Richard's castle. But while it feels like we're switching back and forth between channels as the separate stories unfold, the play is at its most strained when the stories actually do intersect.

Two Days of Grace is the only full production in First Seen's season of staged readings and workshops of new works. Press-Coffman's play has been staged before, in Tucson where she now lives, but her connections with First Seen go back to when she was a San Francisco resident. Her career recently got a boost when her play *Touch* was staged as part of the Humana Festival of New American Plays in Louisville.

Touch, about a husband struggling to recover from the violent death of his wife, was an uneven effort in which all the parts didn't seem to come together. It's a problem even more obvious in *Two Days of Grace*, where the audience must seriously strain to see the

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Jonathan Ingbreton as Richard III and Matt Goff as Adam.

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Pia's

Julia Stiles and Ethan Hawke in Michael Almereyda's *Hamlet*

Hotel Elsinore

'Hamlet,' MTV-style

by Robert Julian

If the prospect of Ethan Hawke, in a knit ski-cap with dangling ear-flaps, delivering Hamlet's to-be-or-not-to-be soliloquy in the aisles of Blockbuster Video appeals to you, then you'll love the latest incarnation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. But you'll also have to accept Elizabethan English delivered by characters living in a Manhattan hotel named Elsinore and wandering aimlessly through the highrise corporate headquarters of a firm called Denmark. And get ready to cozy up to the concept of a corporation headed by King Claudius, not a CEO, where the

former King's son Hamlet is referred to as a prince.

For reasons that escape this viewer, Miramax allowed Michael Almereyda, the auteur behind *Trance*, an "Irish druid witch mummy movie," to adapt and direct this most recent rendering of The Bard's classic. Shakespeare's dialogue lands in Almereyda's contemporary steel-and-glass canyons like a beautiful fish gasping for air on a foreign shore. The relentless assault of video monitors, DVD recordings, and Banana Republic styling does little to remedy the fundamental dissonance of Almereyda's concept. Then there are the performances.

Acting honors go to Bill Murray as Shakespeare's classic buffoon, Polonius, and Steve Zahn as the immortal dufus, Rosencrantz. Both of these actors are pitch-perfect in their characterizations. Silliness is the defining characteristic of this production, and it doesn't get any sillier than these two guys. Unfortunately, what is appropriate to minor characters does not work for the high drama of Hamlet's premeditated revenge drama.

In the title role, Ethan Hawke conveys the intelligence of the character, but not the essential spark. Hamlet's melancholy should belie a powerful determination of spirit, but Hawke seems to have swallowed too many downers. Snaggle-toothed Sam Shepard brings surprising aplomb to the role of the ghost, Hamlet's father,

but Diane Venora as Gertrude, Hamlet's mother, provides your basic deer-in-the-headlights rendering of a complex woman. Kyle McLachlan seems unsure about his role as the murderous Claudius. Is he a CEO, a king, a mobster, or a Lothario? McLachlan plays them all. But special raspberries go to Julia Stiles for her nonperformance as Ophelia. If Stiles had worked a little harder, she might have risen to the level of wooden.

Cinematographer John De Borman makes good use of Manhattan's skyscrapers and urban canyons, but in doing so he robs the story of the claustrophobia inherent in its original castle setting. This "opening up" detracts from the tension that arises when powerful people begin to murder and expose each other while living under the same roof. Yet these crucial choices were all made by the director, Almereyda, who only succeeds in reinventing the wheel as a square. If there is any benefit to be accrued from this production, it is the possibility that teen viewers will abandon MTV ever so briefly to be lured into the theater by the hip design sensibilities of this production. Once seated, their imaginations might be inspired by the beauty of Shakespeare's words. But in art, as in business, bait and switch remains a questionable practice. ▼

Hamlet opens Friday, May 19.

Cartoons on the dark side

'Cartoon Noir' at Red Vic

by Gary Morris

Film noir's spell over the culture continues unchecked. If the Roxie's recent festival wasn't enough, fans starved for fun in the dark can sate themselves with the Red Vic's *Cartoon Noir* show. This mini-fest differs from most cartoon compilations not only in its focus on noir themes but in the fact that it's not an annual roundup. This means the compiler was free to delve into the past — as far back as 1987 — to create an especially strong package.

Anyone who thinks cartoon and noir are inherently incompatible has only to look back at the Bugs Bunny gangster pic satires, or the ominous urbanescapes of the Fleischer Brothers' *Superman* series, or even the relentlessly dark elements in early Disney movies like *Pinocchio*, with its monstrous transformations, or Snow White's nightmare trek through the ultimate in paranoia-drenched cartoon forests.

The present show mines some of the same terrain, happily without getting caught in the trap of the super-slick, digital effects that have made much of modern animation (and for that matter, live-action films) so boring. *Cartoon Noir* opens with Pedro Serrazina's brief, beautiful *The Story of the Cat and the Moon* (Portugal, 1995). This cel animation gracefully collapses what appears to be a cat's enduring obsession with the elusive moon into five fleeting minutes. The narration (by the cat) is classic noir: "In the beginning there was total darkness, the silent immensity of the night. Then she came and everything changed." Serrazina gets points for the sudden, poignant ending, where desire is realized.

What is it with Eastern European animators and mannequins? Jan Svankmajer has built a career on grisly puppets and rotting mannequins, and his Czech compadre Jiri Barta adds his contribution to the genre here with *Club of the Discarded* (1989). In the course of 25 minutes, Barta manages lethal hits on a variety of themes — gentrification, the capriciousness of fate, social and cultural collapse — as a group of older mannequins, who perform their daily routines with a mechanicalness tinged with pathos, are threatened by the arrival of a

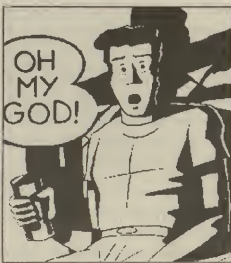
more modern, frivolous group, who chain-smoke and screw. Barta's critique of Czech society may be lost on those who don't know the history, but his tableaux are nonetheless disturbing and intense, particularly in the contrast between the fixed mindless grins of these creatures and their desiccated environment and loopy rituals.

Julie Zammarchi's *Ape* (US, 1992) spends five creepy minutes with a noxious couple who fume and scream and serve up a monkey, reminiscent of Curious George, for dinner. Zammarchi's cel animation has a shape-shifting, cartoonish quality that well suits her subject. More classical is Piotr Dumala's *Gentle Spirit* (Poland, 1987), which uses the rarely seen animation format of painted plaster. Dumala reimagines the Dostoyevsky story as an Edward Gorey nightmare, with a very noirish couple moving mysteriously through increasingly dark realms.

More upbeat, though not initially, is Suzan Pitt's *Joy Street* (US, 1996), another cel animation minicomp at 24 minutes. This one begins with a treasured noir motif — attempted suicide — but ends with a repudiation of noir by its nemesis: nature! The would-be suicide is rescued by a spirit guide in the form of a toy monkey who comes to life and leads her into a forest overflowing with brilliantly colored plants and creatures that envelop and eventually renew her. If the story has its cloying moments, there's enough power in Pitt's bright, lively imagery to redeem it.

Aliens with their hubcap-like spaceships and exciting anal probes are never far from the cultural discourse. In *Abductees* (UK, 1995), Paul Vester interviewed five real New Yorkers who believe they were snatched by spacemen, and illustrates their outlandish claims using all kinds of animation techniques. The result is a riotously funny parade of absurd and sometimes dark imagery, as aliens gracefully goosetep and boogie, and stick outer-space needles into the eyes of hapless humans. Vester makes use of noir motifs, but mostly for comic effect, showing that, in spite of all that grimness, noir is still always happy to oblige even aliens with their anal probes. ▼

Cartoon Noir plays the Red Vic Movie House, 1727 Haight St., May 18-23.

A scene from *Abductees*

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Deconstructing Gertrude

by Aimée Ts'ao

Maybe there is a there there after all. On Friday, May 19, Oakland choreographer Nina Haft will premiere her latest work, *The Making of Americans*, based on Gertrude Stein's autobiographical novel of the same name, at the Alice Arts Center, fittingly in Oakland. Tucked away in a small office cum storage room at PALM (Performing Arts Library and Museum), where she works part-time when not teaching or choreographing, Haft and I discussed the genesis of the piece, inspired by one of the last century's best-known literary artists.

Aimée Ts'ao: What happened that you decided to create *The Making of Americans*?

Nina Haft: I have been choreographing in the Bay Area since 1984, investigating women and women's issues. And I'm a Jewish lesbian who's interested in Jewish women and the history of Jews coming to California. I started reading about Jews in Oakland, where I live. As a young woman, being political, Jewish and an artist were all very interconnected. For Jews in America, I found that it's a very common triumvirate.

I found out that Gertrude Stein had been a transplant and spent her early childhood on an orchard in East Oakland. After her mother and father died when she was in her early teens, she followed her brother Leo to Harvard, and then to Europe. She was particularly close to him. She lived as an expatriate for the rest of her life, though she identified as an American in her writing. I wondered about that experience of living away from home, how it influenced her work, and also, about her being Jewish. So I began reading her work, and immediately the cadence or rhythm of her work reminded me of Yiddish.

Her experiments in literature make a perfect structure for creating modern dance choreography. She was interested in how what

someone repeatedly said over time revealed the essence of who they really were. She had this thing about writing in the continuous present, not talking about the past or the future. She broke a lot of rules about narrative. With *The Making of Americans*, she set out to break the rules of the 19th-century novel.

Dance and theater performances take place in the moment, in the same way that Stein wanted her readers to experience her writing. She was interested in words as sound objects. For her, words had color, volume and shape. She played around with repeating words until the meaning detached and floated away. You get this undercurrent of feeling, never overt, but like a groundswell that pulls something out of me. And that resonates with how I make dances, and what modern dance tries to do, to abstract movement and gestures.

Gertrude Stein was really ambivalent about being female. She was a genius, and in her mind, genius was a masculine quality; therefore, she was a man. She had very unpleasant things to say about women and about Alice B. Toklas for being deferential, weak, quiet and silly. All her colleagues were male writers, and she hated Virginia Woolf. I began to wonder why she hated women so much, and why she disliked Jews. I know that gays and lesbians who aren't able to come out sometimes end up hating what they are, but Stein didn't have to come out, because she'd never been in.

In a lot of ways I think she would hate what I'm doing with her work. But I am not trying to represent her in my work; I'm making the assumption that there are things that were true about her 100 years ago that are true about me now. A transplant to the West Coast, secular Jewish family, lesbian artist. ▼

Nina Haft & Co. perform *The Making of Americans*, music by Amy X Neuberger and Lou Harrison, May 19-21 at the Alice Arts Theater, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. Tickets: call 789-8583.



Choreographer Nina Haft

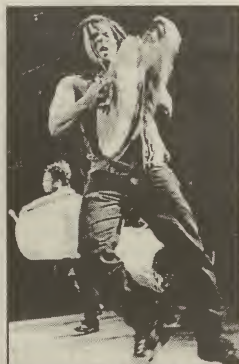
The beat goes on 'Stomp' returns to SF

by Richard Dodds

In show-biz lingo, this is a sit-down production of *Stomp*, but "sit down" hardly describes what's on view at the Marines Memorial Theatre. The performers variously drum, dance, pound, snap, flick, and slam, and they do so with an easy-going precision and a frightening energy.

You may have seen *Stomp* before (I have, twice), but the dynamic has changed with each cast, and none more so than with this current incarnation. To launch the open-ended run in San Francisco, the producers have brought in veterans from various *Stomp* productions. A treat for us is the presence for a month or so of Luke Cresswell.

Cresswell created the international phenomenon with Steve McNicholas, and was featured in its early productions. He may now have a few more years on him than



A scene from *Stomp*

most of his onstage colleagues, but he provides a star power that *Stomp* usually eschews. It's hard to keep your eyes off this burly per-

next page ►

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Gambling on Greenaway

'8 1/2 Women' at the Castro

by Robert Julian

One part acid trip and two parts high art, *8 1/2 Women* continues Peter Greenaway's tradition of visually stunning images and extraordinary production design, assembled this time in an homage to Federico Fellini's *8 1/2*. Greenaway trained as a painter, and his current, colorful cinematic collage differs substantially from Fellini's stark black-and-white images. But Greenaway's film and the Fellini opus which inspired it are both personal, idiosyncratic visions that reward (and require) a viewer's intelligence and sophistication.

The beginning of *8 1/2 Women* combines text from the screenplay that describes the early images; a group encounter in a corporate high-rise; and the front elevations of Japanese casinos, alive with flashing neon — all intercut with standard opening credits. The film's pallet is a vibrant, painterly collaboration by cinematographer Sacha Vierny and production designer Wilbert Van Dorp. As writer and director, Greenaway

quickly introduces us to Storey Emmenthal (Matthew Delamere), who runs a casino in Kyoto, and his father Philip (John Standing), who lives in the family mansion in Geneva. After the death of Storey's mother, he returns home to comfort his grieving father and ends up transforming the family manse into a harem, populated with *8 1/2* hand-picked women (the "1/2" has no legs) who come to live with the two men and satisfy their sexual fantasies.

The assembled collection of feminine pulchritude includes Jane Austen types, Somerset Maugham temptresses, Asian Kabuki dolls, nuns in habits, French maids, Rubenesque courtesans, S&M dominatrices, and a Lady Godiva manqué. I like to think of it as a vaginal cornucopia of art and literature, all blown through the Marquis de Sade. The actresses who serve as Greenaway's archetypes include Toni Collette (with shaved head and pubis), Amanda Plummer, Vivian Wu, and most memorably, the beautiful Polly Walker (*Restoration*) as Palmira, the father's favorite. And in spite of the



Polly Walker, Toni Collette, Shizuka Inoh, Barbara Sarafian, Kirina Mano, Vivian Wu, Natacha Amal, Amanda Plummer, and Manna Fujiwara in Peter Greenaway's *8 1/2 Women*

overtly sexual nature of the story, and the egalitarian display of male and female genitalia, this is not a particularly erotic film; Greenaway engages the eye and the intellect more than the groin.

Jumping ship

Philip and Storey enjoy their harem, but, as years pass, the ladies begin to abandon ship via suicides, attempted murders, earthquakes, escapes, or by entering a convent. In the process, the director explores heterosexual male fantasies with the kind of overt, mature sensibility that many hoped (in vain) Stanley Kubrick might bring to *Eyes Wide Shut*. But *8 1/2 Women* is not without flaws.

Greenaway describes his film as "a modest homage to Fellini," and

in many respects modesty is called for. The female characters, with the exception of Palmira, never transcend their symbolic function because Greenaway's script does not provide them with the opportunity to do so. And the two leading men seem to have a great time expressing Greenaway's wicked and wild sense of humor, but it is sometimes so deadpan you might need an elbow in the ribs to get the point. Where Fellini brought together all the disparate elements of *8 1/2* at the end in a wonderfully organic cinematic fashion, Greenaway resorts to an earthquake (*à la* Altman's *Short Cuts*), more *deus ex machina* than resolution. In *8 1/2 Women*, that which is disparate remains so. But for all the vagaries of the production, there are many

images, like the one in which dozens of women's shoes float atop a pond, which will last longer in the mind of most viewers than any particular plot point.

Those who need a neat, linear storyline and clearly defined meaning will find *8 1/2 Women* frustrating. What this film "means" is something each viewer will have to determine for himself. But Greenaway drops many clues along the way, including a brief and illuminating exchange where the son suggests to his father that they make a movie about the life they are living. The father replies, "Why make a film when you can live it?" ▼

8 1/2 Women opens at the Castro on Friday, May 19.

Stomp

◀ previous page

former, and when he does a solo bit with two brooms and his work-booted feet, it's mesmerizing.

Stomp evolved out of the routines and improvisations of a band of British buskers whose cottage industry has since become big business. The 100-minute intermissionless show is built from a series of vignettes in which the cast members, who look more like a cleaning crew than slick entertainers, discover that some everyday object from their janitorial arsenal can become an instrument in a rhythmic collaboration.

Push brooms, rubber hoses, pails, oil drums, garbage cans, newspapers, matchboxes, toilet plungers, cigarette lighters, and even kitchen sinks all lead to some sort of imaginative production number that can be short and subtle or big and clangorous.

There are all sorts of unspoken dynamics at play within the deceptive simplicity of *Stomp*, which seems to operate in a kind of parallel universe where rules are recognizable but the routines are alien. The pleasures are often visceral, from a giddy childlike plea-

sure at watching people whack things to the intoxicating visual and aural rhythms created with a coarse-grained sophistication.

What makes the production more than a grab bag of beats and bangs is the human element amid all the noisy neat stuff. There are 16 performers listed in the program, but only eight perform at any given performance. Who you see will determine what show you see.

On opening night, in addition to Cresswell, two other members of the original UK cast were on stage. Fiona Wilkes and Fraser Morrison displayed the casual-seeming skill that helps create the *Stomp* magic. But newer veterans Andres Fernandez, Elizabeth Vidos, Mina Liccione, Sean Dean Davis, and Tayo Alexander were all in sync with the styles and rhythms.

You could simply let *Stomp* wash over you and have a fine time. Or, if you are a theater critic, you could explore the tribal rituals as filtered through Busby Berkeley and then reinterpreted in blue-collar tones. Both work for me. ▼

Stomp is at the Marines Memorial Theatre for an open-ended run. Tickets are \$25-\$45. Call (877) 771-6900.

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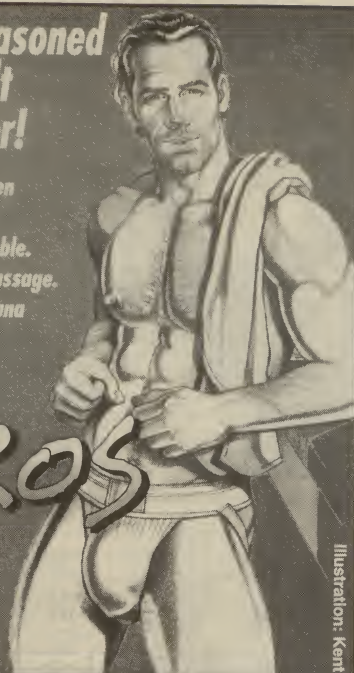


Illustration: Kent

How to age and die with grace

by Mark Mardon

Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing, and Dying by Ram Dass; Riverhead Books, \$22.22.

What happens after death is a central theme of all the world's religions," writes the guru of psychedelic experience and Soul awareness, Ram Dass, in *Still Here*, his elegant swan song, written from the perspective of an old man confined to a wheelchair, having endured a stroke, now looking back upon his life and evaluating the prospects for death — and the Soul's existence after death.

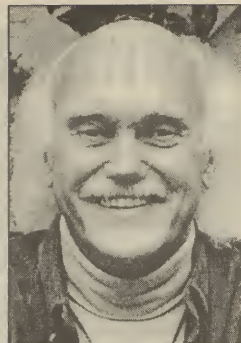
He quotes Goethe, who once avowed that "I am just as certain as you see me here that I have existed a thousand times before, and I hope to return a thousand times more."

He observes: "Every attempt to describe what happens after we die — the *bardos* in the Tibetan texts, the mansions in the Kabala, the heaven and hell of Christianity, the ground of being in Buddhism — point to the same

source: that is, a realm that the Soul enters after death in some form of continuing evolution."

He quotes a Japanese Zen Master who, on approaching death, picked up his pen and scribbled, "Birth is thus. Death is thus. Verse or no verse, what's the fuss?"

The fuss is all in our minds, Dass assures us in this profoundly wise and elegant book. It's the Ego at work, that force within us that shouts out so loudly we forget to listen to the Soul, making us forget that all the things the Ego works toward are transitory and ultimately burdensome, while all the Soul wants is to be liberated, to become fully aware, to exist peacefully for all eternity. Ego time is immediate, short-term; Soul time beats with the pulse of infinity. The Soul, unlike the Ego, carries no baggage, and acts quietly. It is thus easily overlooked in the din of our chaotic lives, with our minds so overwhelmed with distractions. Those who approach the end of their mortal lives without having calmed their Egos and gained Awareness, warns Dass, will meet death badly.



Still Here author Ram Dass

in human society, according to Dass, is because "at root we are a secular society whose deepest leanings are toward the school of thought known as philosophical materialism... the idea that reality is limited to what we perceive through our senses."

Our Egos prevent us from seeing beyond ourselves. "The Ego is what ages and dies," Dass asserts. "It doesn't continue. It is nearly impossible for the Ego to imagine this. When the Ego thinks it's dying, it mistakes itself for the whole — body, Soul and Awareness — and often people who are beginning to go through the long process of ripening into God run around to different doctors (and maybe even shrinks) because they develop an even more intense dread of death."

Throughout the book, Dass serves up examples from his own life. Yet, thankfully, his anecdotes are kept to a minimum, his own Ego kept in check. Primarily he takes stock of his own situation to launch into reflections on universal issues: learning to face and conquer our fears as we age, expanding our consciousness, coping with depression, accepting the changes in our bodies, working with pain, adjusting to dependency, enjoying our eccentricities.

Dass's core advice, though, centers on letting go of the past, lest memories intrude and discolor the present, and ceasing to worry overmuch about what the future holds.

"Prolong not the past/Invite not the future," quotes Dass from a Tibetan Buddhist verse. But how is one to achieve these goals? Dass's advice contains the beauty of wisdom:

"Getting the Ego to release its grip can be as simple as being able to experience what's present at any given time. It sounds simple, but volumes have been written about just how to do this, some of them thousands of years old. It's called meditation." ▼

Ram Dass gives a reading Mon., May 22 at the Unitarian Universalist Center (Franklin at Geary). \$10, or \$24 for ticket and copy of *Still Here*. Call 392-4400.

Wake-up call

But death need not be so feared. Dass offers a prescription for aging and dying with grace: "We each bring to the moment of our passing the summation of all that we've lived and done, which is why we must begin as soon as possible to prepare ourselves for this occasion by waking up, completing our business, and becoming the sort of wise elders who can close their eyes for the last time without regrets."

Everything else in *Still Here* leads up to this conclusion. Dass laments that the real value of elders of our society — who more and more are treated (and come to view themselves) as "obsolete, like yesterday's computers" — is sadly being overlooked.

"Wisdom is one of the few things in human life that does not diminish with age," writes Dass, whose body has failed him but whose mind is not only lucid, but aware of larger truths: "While everything else falls away, wisdom alone increases until death if we live examined lives."

In Dass's world view, ultimate wisdom equates with "Awareness," otherwise known as "God, *Brahma*, *Paramatman*, the Nameless, the Formless, The Unmanifest, the Nondual, the Absolute. Ego and Soul are inextricable parts of Awareness, just as Awareness is the very essence of who we are."

The reason wisdom has ceased to retain its once-exalted stature

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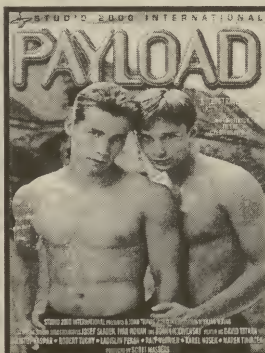
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Edward II

◀ page 32

hard to tell your Russell Crowes from your Rock Hudsons. Christopher Barreca's set, edgily lit by Donald Holder, suggests a world of shower rooms, locker rooms, and bedrooms.

As Edward, Gets offers a reasonable and efficient performance that does palpably convey the character's blind love for Gaveston. Christopher Baker is Gaveston, a role he plays handsomely if not very memorably. Vivienne Benesch does find some meat in the role of Isabella, Edward's neglect-

ed wife, who is willing to suffer only up to a point. And Mortimer, Edward's main nemesis and Isabella's eventual lover, has some flash in the personage of Dan Snook.

This *Edward II*, even when it doesn't achieve Lamos' clearly drawn goals, is never less than intriguing. A director with a gay agenda has been given free reign at the city's most establishment theater, and that is reason enough to take notice. ▼

Edward II will run through June 4 at the Geary Theater. Tickets are \$15-\$55. Call 749-2228.

BOOKS

Scribes, screams & Eve

by Robert Julian

All About "All About Eve" by Sam Staggs; St. Martin's Press, \$24.95

From Scream to Dawson's Creek by Andy Mangels; Renaissance, \$16.95

Sam Staggs' exhaustively researched and engaging history of *All About Eve* should be required reading for any film student, actor, or male homosexual who aspires to world-class dish. But Staggs' work is such fascinating reading, no requirement is necessary; any interested party will seek out and treasure this remarkable work.

Starting at the beginning, Eve emerged from an informal conversation in the kitchen of German-born actress Elisabeth Bergner. Mary Orr, a friend and writer, was Bergner's dinner guest. The two women prepared dinner while their husbands chatted in the living room, and Bergner related the true story of a young woman she invited into her life after the woman waited regularly for her outside the stage door for over a month. Orr later wove Bergner's tale into a short story, "The Wisdom of Eve," that appeared in *Cosmopolitan* in 1946. Orr turned the story into a radio play in 1949, and then 20th Century-Fox bought the rights and Joe Mankiewicz wrote and directed his Oscar-winning screenplay, *All About Eve*, in 1950.

Staggs' book uncovers every detail, including the real woman who inspired Eve. We learn of Bette Davis and Mankiewicz deliberately sending up Tallulah Bankhead with Davis' portrayal of Eve; of Celeste Holm's refusal to speak to Davis during filming; of the real Sarah Siddons; and of the constant and constantly irritating presence of Zsa Zsa Gabor during filming. Gabor was married to Eve's Oscar-winning supporting actor, George Sanders, and she kept trying to get herself cast in a supporting role. Did Marilyn Monroe sleep around? How did Davis behave on the set? And how did Eve ultimately get transformed into the Broadway musical *Applause*?

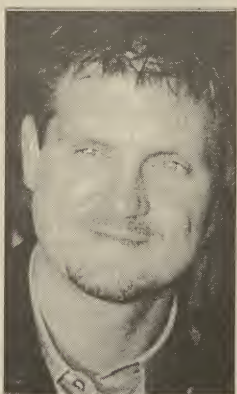
The answers to all these questions, and many more, unfold seamlessly in Staggs' wildly entertaining history tome. The author also finishes the book with a personal interview conducted in April, 1999 with the actress Marti-



"Margo Channing's Dark Cocktail Party of the Soul:" Anne Baxter, Bette Davis, Marilyn Monroe and George Sanders in *All About Eve*

na Lawrence, who was the inspiration for the character of Eve Harrington. This final interview brings an eerie air of authenticity to the whole affair, while it adds weight and dimension to the legendary tale of an ingenue who stabs her patroness in the back, only to see history repeat itself in her own life. My favorite moment is when Staggs employs the work of Joseph Campbell to illuminate the story, and ends up referring to *All About Eve* as "Margo Channing's Dark Cocktail Party of the Soul." This is a great read.

Moving from the sublime to the ridiculous, we stumble across Andy Mangels' *From Scream to*



Kevin Williamson

Dawson's Creek: An Unauthorized Take on the Phenomenal Career of Kevin Williamson. Williamson is no Joe Mankiewicz, and Andy Mangels is no Sam Staggs. If Mangels had the opportunity to read Staggs' work before the publication of his own, he might have destroyed his own research or chosen another profession. Either option would have saved the reader from this embarrassingly amateurish fanzine affair.

From *Scream to Dawson's Creek* is a poorly conceived and executed condensation of existing interviews and articles the author collected from magazines, the Internet, and digital video box sets, supplemented by some words from Williamson delivered directly to the author in their one and only interview, which took place after a trade show. Skip this one, unless you can't resist plot summaries and bios of the actors in Williamson's film and television productions. ▼

Two Days

◀ page 32

past as present.

On the one hand, Press-Coffman sets out to rescue Richard III from the hunch-backed infamy that Shakespeare's play provoked. Meanwhile, several centuries later, young Adam has come to the castle to exorcise his nightmares, when he meets an American football star with a love of history. Both think they're straight, but both come to realize otherwise. The play tries to offer a parallel between the first kiss between Richard and his Anne and the kiss that Adam and Clint finally commit. It seems like a mighty big reach.

For me, the most enjoyable moments were the contemporary scenes, as a will-they-or-won't-they tension builds between the

very different Adam and Clint. But there were moments when the story of King Richard, in which he has a premonition of how history will judge him, provides passages of interest.

That the play is a frustrating colloid can't be blamed on the actors, who offer competent and committed work under Leslie Martinson's direction. Matt Goff and Matt Leshinskie, as Adam and Clint, handle with quiet sensitivity the contemporary scenes. Jonathan Ingbretson as Richard, Megan Towle as Anne, and Mark Larkin as Francis Lovell play the 15th-century scenes with human-sized pomp. ▼

Two Days of Grace at Middleham will run in the Studio at Theatre Rhino through May 27. Tickets are \$15-\$18. Call 861-5079.

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OUT&ABOUT



Nina Haft & Company dance their appreciation of Gertrude Stein at Alice Arts Theatre in Oakland. See Friday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Sound fix

Sometimes I feel like a pusher. My drug of choice is experimental music. It's not for everyone, but there I am, always trying to get people to listen to the latest crazy recording or check out some maniac DJ or attend some mind-warping concert.

For some people, acquiring the taste is too much trouble; it's much easier to fall back on the familiar. The farthest-out computerized, turntableized, sequenced, sampled and processed music can strike some like their first sip of some initially nasty tasting liqueur. Only with persistence and appreciation do they experience it as ambrosia. One thing I know; it's far easier to enjoy an experimental-music high if you feel comfortably grounded in more traditional forms. Only then can you readily distinguish the purely original from the purely putrid.

The point is, a revolution is occurring in music, and we San Franciscans are fortunate to be central in its shaping. Whether as performers, technicians, or audience members, ample opportunities are at hand to get caught up in the headiness of it all.

The term "experimental" encompasses a universe of styles. It's not all electronics; acoustic instruments and structured compositions play vital parts. Skilled musicianship, not just electronics wizardry, is fundamental to its success.

So just as I would entice you to visit a Bill Viola video-art exhibit at SFMOMA because it will alter your perception of reality, I recommend you take in the unusual concert coming up this weekend at ODC Theater: *Rovaté III: An Improvisers Festival*.

Improvisation is itself a sub-genre of the experimental classification, though in some ways it's the world's oldest musical art form, predating civilization. But this festival takes improvisation far from its Neanderthal roots; some of our finest local musicians are taking part, and they are anything but crude.

Headlining the event are the Rova Saxophone Quartet with drummer Gerry Hemingway, premiering new works by Jon Raskin and Steve Adams. Rova's genre-bending music has its roots in, as they put it, "post-bop free jazz and 20th century music as well as traditional and popular styles of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas."

On the bill as well are Miya Masaoka, whose very atypical koto playing lends itself to jazz, Western classical, electronic and improvisational music. She'll be performing with former Kronos quartet cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, who has performed with hundreds of the world's leading composers.

Guitarist/composer John Schott, electronic and computer sound artist Tim Perkins, and New Music bandleader, contrabassist, composer and producer George Cremaschi round out the bill with a premiere of "Sometimes Why," a composition by Bruce Ackley. "While the work is tightly structured with written portions," says Ackley, there will be room for improvisation to make it come alive."

Just don't call it jazz. ▼

Rovaté III plays Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, 8 p.m., at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets are \$15. Call 487-1701. A pre-concert symposium with Rova Saxophone Quartet and Gerry Hemingway takes place at 6:30 p.m. on Sat. (free).

Fri 19

Alice Arts Theatre, Oakland

Nina Haft & Company premiere the new dance production inspired by and dedicated to the writings of Gertrude Stein. Featuring music by composers Amy X Neuburg and Lou Harrison. \$12 Fri. & Sun., May 19 & 21; \$14 Sat., May 20 (including dessert reception). 8pm (2pm Sun.). 1428 Alice St., Oakland. Info/tix: (415) 789-8583.

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace Artist in Residence Rachel Short presents a work-in-progress: "Lulu and other Heavenly Creatures," a ritualistic performance designed to stir the viewer's imagination as they enter into a surreal world of angels and archetypes. Drawing on myriad world mythologies, "Lulu" examines the universals of birth, death, and rebirth. Both meditative and raucous, it returns the viewer "to the origin of joy and our creative molten core." Short draws her inspiration from the ocean, the moon, and her magic dove Lulu. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOR). 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.).

Cell Space

Fundraiser, preview party: "Swinging in the Shadows," a documentary in production about the underground, avant-garde artists and poets in California during the Beat Era. Preview clips from the film and hear poetry readings and live music. Auction of period memorabilia. Photo display. Hard-to-find publications available. Refreshments. \$20 (tax deductible). 8pm. 2050 Bryant St. (btwn 18th & 19th streets). Info: Mary Kerr, (510) 232-9111.

Eureka Theater

"In Search of My Clitoris," a playful one-woman show starring Amma, directed by Felecia Faulkner. \$12 (\$10 seniors/students). 8pm. Also on May 20. 215 Jackson St. (btwn Battery & Front). 788-7469.

Marlena's

"Marlena's Girls," a lively drag cabaret hosted by former Empress of San Jose, Toby. With guest appearances by En Drag performers. No cover. 10pm. (also Saturdays at 10pm & midnight). 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). 864-6672.

MACT Monthly Video Night

Men of All Colors Together host a social gathering and video showing of Wigstock. Refreshments served. \$2. 490 Collingwood St. (at 22nd St.), Apt. 3. Info: 675-0201.

Dance Mission

Spinning Yarns Dance Collective and Right Brain Performancelab present "Woven Tales and Branching Thoughts," a joint venture in dance,

physical theater and storytelling. With Susan Donham, Jennifer Gwiltz, and John Baumann. \$10-\$12 sliding. 8pm. Also on 5/20. 3316 24th St. (at Mission). 387-4812.

First Unitarian Center

"Buddhism at Millennium's Edge" presents Bay Area writer Maxine Hong Kingston who established the Veteran Writers Group "to heal the scars of war and violence and by writing their way to peace." A benefit for the SF Zen Center. \$15. 7:30pm. Franklin & Geary streets. 863-3133.

Cowell Theatre

"Subali-Sugriwa," a new work uniting two renowned Bay Area music and dance companies, Gamelan Sekar Jaya and Chitresh Das Dance Company. Based on the Ramayana, an ancient Hindu epic, the performance combines the Balinese interlocking vocal chant known as ketjak and the complex rhythmic footwork of classical Indian kathak dance. \$18 adv.; \$20 door. 8pm. Thru May 21. Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

Sat 20

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Table Rock, Palisades, and Oak Hill Mine Trail hike in Calistoga and enjoy the beautiful views. It's a moderately strenuous 12-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; surf www.sfhiking.com.

Metropolitan Community Church

New Leaf: Services for Our Community presents "Mental Aspects of Speed," the second in a series of community forums that will address different concerns about speed use. Free. 3-4:30pm. 150 Eureka St. 626-7000, ext. 234.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Lecture: "Yin Yin, Yang Yang: The Tao of Same-Sex Relationships," presented by Sa Wei-Dao, founder of Queer Taoists. Donations welcome. 10am-noon. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info: 1-(888) 936-8327.

Fort Mason Center

Tibetan sand mandala demonstration by the monks of the Sed-Gyued Datsang Tantric College. Also on display: traditional thangka paintings by father-son master artists Urgen Dorje Sherpa and Tserin Sherpa. \$10. 10am-9pm Sat. & Thur.; 10am-8pm Sun.-Wed.

Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy presents the

3rd annual "Feygelah Schmeigelah: An Evening of Queer Jewish Humor," hosted by Lisa Geduldig, featuring television, film, recording, and stand-up comic artists Jason Stuart, Julie Goldman, Page Hurwitz, and Sydney Mints. Partial proceeds benefit "That's A Family," a new film for kids about family diversity, by Women's Educational Media (Debra Chasnoff and Helen Cohen). \$20 & \$25. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400 or BASS; info: 522-3737. Surf: www.igc.org/koshercomedy

The California Club

SwingOUT! presents "Queer Swing Dance(s)," with DJ dancing to 40s big-band music until midnight. Beginning swing lessons (no partner necessary) 7-8:30pm. \$7-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOR). 1750 Clay St. (btwn Polk & Van Ness). 339-8103; surf www.queerswing.com

Curran Theater

Actress Judith Light, star of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Wit," headlines a benefit performance for Q-Spirit. "Q-Spirit is an essential organization because queer people are an important part of the world's spiritual leadership," said the openly straight Light, long a fighter against AIDS and homophobia. Private reception with Light follows play. \$100 play & reception; \$50 reception only. 8pm curtain. 1182 Market St. 281-9377.

Cow Palace

Legendary child star Margaret O'Brien, a hit in the 1940s, joins the "Antique & Collectible Show" to sell autographed photos, the entire proceeds going to the Sacramento AIDS Foundation. O'Brien will be available all hours of the show. \$5 entry. 8am-6pm. Also on 5/21 (9am-5pm). Lower exhibit halls.

Sun 21

Golden Gate Park

"Gay Ultimate Frisbee." Everyone welcome to play. Every Sunday at 11:30am. Speedway Meadow (on JFK Drive btwn 25th & 30th streets), Golden Gate Park. Info: call Jeff at 648-6854.

Asante Day Spa

Open house/AIDS Ride 7 fundraiser. Join holistic-health practitioner and AIDS Rider Jody McKenzie and other Asante staffers in raising funds for AIDS service programs. 50-min. massages for \$50; 20-min. massages for \$20. All proceeds benefit the AIDS Ride. Complimentary hand and foot massages. Beverages and snacks served. Massages by appt. only, including Swedish, deep-tissue, Shiatsu, vibrational healing therapy, cranial sacral balancing and more. 10am-2pm. 1801B Bush St. 642-4731.

Paxton Gate

Artist lecture/exhibition: Gary Brewer discusses "The Amber Mystique," reflections on the luminosity of flora and fauna (insects, mostly) suspended in amber, with insight into the natural and cultural history of amber. His current solo exhibit makes extensive use of amber as an art medium. Brewer curated the recent hit art show "Them," which focused on the ento-



You, too, can be a contestant in New Meat Campus' "Dating Gayme." See Monday.

mological universe. 5pm. 824 Valencia St. (btwn. 19th & 20th streets).

SF AIDS Candlelight Vigil

Marchers will gather at Castro and Market streets, as they have for the last 17 years, to commemorate the lives of more than 18,000 San Franciscans who succumbed to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. This year the march will begin with PWA's carrying the original banner from the very first march in 1983, bearing the motto: "Fighting for Our Lives." The march steps off of Castro St. at 8pm. Procession down Market St. ends with a 30-min. program on the steps of the Main Public Library in Civic Center.

Theatre Rhinoceros

First Seen presents a workshop production of Kerry Reid's play "Unhappened by Sanity," which looks at the evolving economics of eccentricity through two women, a rock-star widow and the Baroness Elsa Von Freytag-Loringhoven. Reid writes about theatre for Bay Area publications, and has staged her own shows from Chicago to Seattle to San Francisco, including at the SF Fringe Festival. 7pm. 2926 16th St. 643-6667.

Mon 22

Herbst Theatre

City Arts & Lectures presents an evening with playwright Terrence McNally (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*), one of today's most gifted and controversial dramatists. His play *Corpus Christi*, for instance, tells the story of Christ as a gay man from Corpus Christi, Texas. His current project is a reworking of Sister Helen Prejean's book *Dead Man Walking* for the 2000-2001 San Francisco Opera season, a project in conjunction with composer Jake Heggie. He'll be interviewed by Larry Eilenberg, artistic director of The Magic Theatre. \$17. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). 392-4400.

Unitarian Universalist Center

Reading & book signing: Ram Dass, author of the spiritual classic *Be Here Now* and his latest tome, *Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dying*, explores joy, pain, fear, and the opportunities for ripening fully in our lives. \$10 (\$24 including a copy of *Still Here*, a \$34 value). 8pm. Franklin & Geary. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400, or from A Clean Well Lighted place for Books (Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness).

Theatre Rhinoceros

First Seen presents a staged reading of Brad Erickson's "Possible Lives," the story of two couples — one gay, one straight — torn apart by the conflicting demands of love, career, family, and Presidential politics. Erickson is the author of "Woody & Me" and "Sexual Irregularities," both of which were staged at Theatre Rhino. 7pm. Also on Wed., May 24. 2926 16th St. 643-6667.



Poet/painter John Allen Ryan was among the Beats "Swinging in the Shadows." See Friday at Cell Space.

Herbst Int'l Exhibition Hall, Presidio

"Yosemite Valley Plan Public Hearing," an opportunity for all users of the car-congested natural wonder to hear and give input on alternatives. Wouldn't it be gay to have a car-free valley! Free. 4-6pm open house; 6-6:30pm presentation of planning alternatives; 6:30-9pm public hearing. Moraga & Montgomery streets, Presidio National Park. (209) 372-0200; surf www.nps.gov/yose/planning.htm

Davies Hospital

Lecture: "Making Your Protease Inhibitor Work Better for You," featuring William Owen, MD. Presented by Community Health Resource Center, California Pacific Medical Center. Free. 7-8pm. Auditorium, Davies campus, Castro & Duboce streets. Registration: 923-3155.

New Meat Campus Theater

"Dating Gayme." Every Monday comic Blake Smith welcomes two Dating Gayme dancers, one lucky contestant, and three hopeful bachelors. The winning contestant joins his bachelor, grabs 100 bucks, and heads out for a night on the town, with the promise to report back next week to dish the dirt. 9pm. 220 Jones St. To be a contestant, stop by the theatre beforehand or register online at www.newmeatcampus.com

Tue 23

Main Public Library

Opening: "Making a Case for Community History," a multimedia exhibition exploring personal history and its in-

teraction with larger historical forces. Presented by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California (public reception takes place at the Main Library on June 1). Skylight Gallery, Main Library, 6th Floor, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

Venue 9

Women's Work presents excerpts from "Don't Look, Don't Ask," written and performed by Ingeborg Weinmann with composer/musician Tim White. Through a blend physical theater, original music and song, Weinmann portrays three generations of women confronting the Holocaust. Plus Kim Shipp and Company Dance Theatre performing "Stones," which examines the timeless imagery of simple tools, and Esther Silberstein playing comedic character T.J., a 35-year-old rock star who thinks he's the second coming of Robert Plant, in "Ladies, I'm Yours." \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm curtain. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). 289-2000; www.ft-loose.org

Wed 24

Cowell Theater,

"Eurythmy, Humor, & Song," presented by the SF Waldorf School's Youth Eurythmy Group. Eurythmy is a dance form blending speech, music, gesture, lighting, and color. With music by Bartok and J.S. Bach. \$15. 7:30pm. Fort Mason Center. 931-2736.

Café du Nord

"The Fifth Annual Bella Donna Ball," a party in honor of Stevie Nicks' birthday. All-Stevie music with DJ Kat. Raffle for cool Stevie stuff. Gypsy-Jeopardy (a Stevie Gameshow). Stevie-oke at midnight. \$7 cover. Doors open 9pm. 2170 Market St.

Thu 25

Central YMCA

New Leaf: Services for Our Community presents "Social Aspects of Speed," the third in a series of community forums that will address different concerns about speed use. Free. 6-8:30pm. 220 Golden Gate Ave. 626-7000, ext. 234.

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Check Out BAR Talk on Page 46!

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Writer Maxine Hong Kingston discusses "Buddhism at Millennium's Edge" at First Unitarian Center. See Friday.

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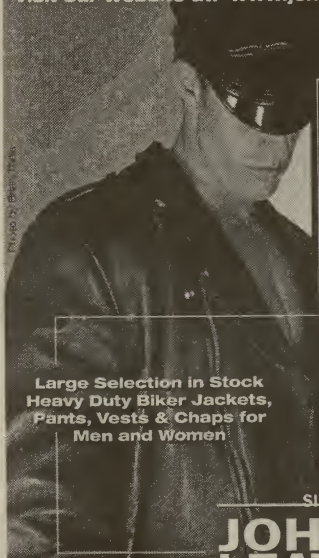
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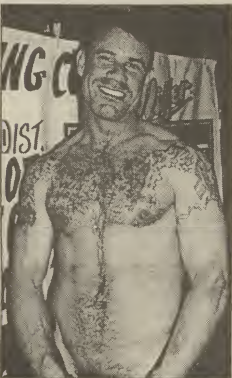
1833 Polk Street (at Jackson) San Francisco

Leather high holy days

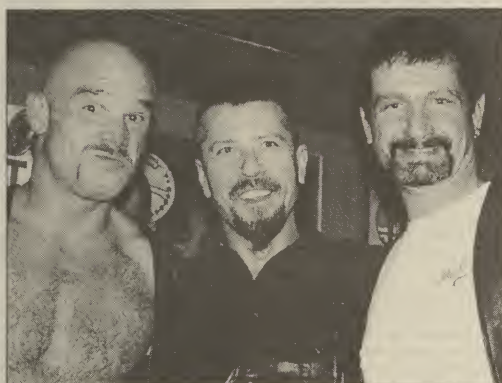
by Mister Marcus

As they're fond of saying in Chicago, next weekend is what Chicagoans consider to be the high holy days of the entire leather community. Besides the International Mr. Leather contest and the thousand-and-one parties associated with it, the Great Lakes Bears, Chicago Hellfire, M.A.F.I.A. and other groups have special parties planned for the thousands arriving to keep Chicago green — with their money! The Chicago Chamber of Commerce estimates that the I.M.L. weekend brings in a whopping \$3 million to the local economy.

One of the unofficial I.M.L. weekend events is the Mr. Ebony-in-Leather competition taking place at the world-famous Cell Block Bar on North Halsted St. The current incumbent, Ariq Robinson, will step aside to make room for a successor on Thursday night, May 24. Queen Cougar and Frank Nowicki will emcee the event.



A tattooed, leather biker man, Daniel Henderson, won the November 2001 spot on the South of Market Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, May 11. He prevailed over six other contestants.



San Francisco will be represented at Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000 in Chicago by Lance Gear (Mr. SF Leather), left, Bob Miller (Mr. Edge Leather), center, and Rob Esmonde (Mr. Daddy's Leather). Their send-off party is on Saturday, May 20 at the Powerhouse.

All across the nation, Int'l. Mr. Leather hopefuls are being fêted with send-off parties to wish them luck at the competition in Chicago. Here on the Left Coast, San Francisco's three entries, Lance Gear (Mr. SF Leather), Bob Miller (Mr. Edge Leather) and Rob Esmonde (Mr. Daddy's Leather) will throw a benefit for Positive Resources at the Powerhouse on Friday, May 19 at around 2100 hours; it's called, "Shower with the Big Boys," with Werner Tillinger doing the MC chores. I don't know quite how this will work (nobody can tell me exactly how this will be done), but Lance, Bob and Rob will take showers onstage. Be there for another innovative event.

Spot items

Yes, life does go on apart from the major leather contests. The 2001 Bare Chest contests are drawing to a conclusion. Almost all the winners have been photographed by James Scott Geras and last Thursday, May 11, seven

hopefuls trooped to the stage of the Powerhouse to vie for the November 2001 spot.

Judges Lance Brittain and Wolf Sterling proved to be somewhat outrageous, while Greg Pennington stuck to the routine and SMMILE judge Bob Goldfarb was his usual courteous self.

When the votes were counted, a tattooed, pierced leather biker type, Daniel Henderson took the spot and Tom Rodgers was the runner-up. The final spot on the 2001 contest will be filled tonight, Thursday, May 18.

Dennis Silva, Philip Turner and Bauke Ylstra will be the judges — promptly at 2130.

Speaking of bare chests, SM-MILE is offering \$750 to whoever can design and build the float for the Bare Chest Calendar 2001. Anyone out there who thinks he/she can do a great job should call 861-3247 and ask for David.

The beneficiaries of proceeds from the Dore Alley Fair and the Folsom Street Fair have been de-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 18

Mr. December 2001 will be chosen at the Powerhouse at 2100 tonight, last of the contests for this season. Dennis Silva, Bauke Ylstra and Philip Turner are the judges. Win \$100 and fame. Do you bit for the community. It will be all over until next January.

Friday, May 20:

I.M.L. send-off for Lance Gear, Bob Miller and Rob Esmonde tonight at the Powerhouse with "Power Shower" shenanigans onstage to benefit Positive Resources. Don't miss this one!

Exiles SF present "Electricity" with Ruth Marks demonstrating her SM juice at the Women's Bldg.; doors 1930; show at 2000. \$3 for members, \$5 for guests. Ruth will demonstrate violet wands, swatters, crank boxes, a tens unit and other toys.

Weekend, May 19-21

First regional Drummer contest in Dallas with a meet & greet on Fri., contest on Saturday at the Dallas Eagle and fun in the torrid zone.

Mr. West Virginia Drummer & Drummer Boy contests at the Tap Room in Charleston, WV by Robert Sheets (remember him?). Winners go on to next higher regional level. Questions? Email to: wvmrtopman1@aol.com.

Saturday, May 20

Bears of SF beer/soda bust for \$7 at the Lone Star Saloon, with raffle tickets and hot dogs, 1500-1900. Always fun with the BOSF.

Major boot party at a near South of Market location and boots are mandatory. No fee mentioned, but I'm sure it's not free. Call 292-3223 for invite & location.

Sunday, May 21

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, one of those no-frills events with just guzzling, gabbing and groping.

Wednesday, May 24

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. A strict dress code (leather, latex, uniforms and boots!). No cologne. Call 863-HEAD.

The Ring discussion group meets to discuss "Dildos, Fingers & Plugs, Oh My!" For more info, call 437-0993 or email to: thering@ix.netcom.com.

Happy Birthday to Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, celebrating at Daddy's from 2000 to 2300 with food and entertainment. It's a benefit, of course.

Thursday, May 25

Bears of San Francisco distribute funds from their International Bear Rendezvous last Feb. in the Whitcomb Ballroom of the Ramada Plaza on 8th & Market sts., with desserts at 1930 and presentation at 2000. RSVP 541-5000 or email: Info@bosf.org.

In Chicago, Mr. Ebony in Leather contest at the Cell Block Bar (on North Halsted St.). The first major event of Int'l. Mr. Leather weekend in the Windy City. Live it up!

Weekend, May 25-29

Leather Heaven in Chicago for Int'l. Mr. Leather weekend. Most of the action at the Congress Hotel (540 So. Michigan Ave.) Great Lakes Bears, Chicago Hellfire, M.A.F.I.A., O.G.N., and visit the Leather Archives & Museum.

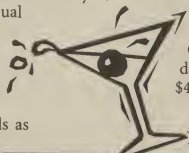
POLKSTRASSE

Shuck and jive

by Sweet Lips

Manager Joe Kobler and chef Janice Londeville have announced that they will host Mayes' Annual Oysterfest on May 22-28. Half-a-dozen oysters will be priced at \$4.95, and the week will feature daily specials as well. If you like 'em raw, as I do, you can have them at the bar with a cocktail. That's at Mayes on Polkstrasse. Shuck 'em all!

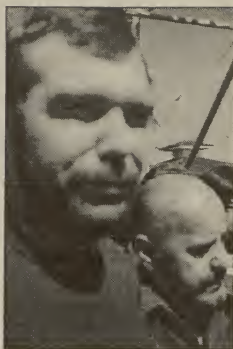
The popular Club Rendezvous'



Cocktail Hour

next Exotica strip show will be Sunday, May 21 at 7 p.m., and what a line-up of talented strippers it is! \$10 cover includes two cocktails.

Marlena's and the Rendezvous are sharing a bus to the Gay and Lesbian Night at Paramount's Great America on Friday, May 26. \$60 includes \$40 admission fee, round-trip fare from SF to Santa Clara, and beer or wine on the bus. We depart at 5 p.m. from the Club, 1312 Polk St. and pick up at Marlena's, 488 Hayes, at 5:15 p.m. No refunds.



Dolly Dale and Bob Golovich in '76

From the Lips archives: check out this photo of Dolly Dale (left) and Bob Golovich from 1976. Notice the beard on Bob! ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

terminated. Watch for an announcement any day now.

As for the reported scandal with the funds from Millennium March on Washington that is being blamed on a leather man, be advised that as far as the Washington Metro Area leather community is concerned, that man was written off as a true leather man years ago. A true leather man has integrity, a concept apparently lost on that man as of a long time ago.

Workshop shifts

Before anyone starts screaming, be advised that due to an unpredictable situation, Guy Baldwin, Brian Dawson and Race Bannon, who were advertised as leading workshops at the Alameda County Leather Corps leather weekend later this year, are not going to do it after all. Replacements are being placed into those slots, so don't get your chaps in an uproar. ▼



Jimmy Lee Murray, Mr. North Atlantic and a former resident of San Francisco will be among those competing for Int'l. Mr. Leather 2000 title in Chicago. He's seen here with North American Leather Boy Randie Smith (kneeling), who went on to become American Leather Boy 2000.

Out There

◀ page 30

opus "Like a Possum" goes on for a few too many possums.

Male call

Fans of male pulchritude will not want to miss **Scott Nichols** Gallery's show of California photographer **Arthur Tress**'s work, in conjunction with the release of his new book *Male of the Species* (FotoFactory). As we've come to expect of the artist, dreamscapes and mythological import come to bear on these beauties, and Tress doesn't neglect the homo in homoerotic. At 49 Geary through July 8; call 788-4641.

We've got mail

Let's dump out the old Out There mailbag and see what we've got. Why, here's a short but sweet epistle:

"Have you seen the billboard on top of the Stud? It's for some beer I've never heard of, but the slogan is, 'Goes down easy. Unlike you.' What is that supposed to mean? [signed] **Bay Gelldawg**"

Have we seen it? Honey pie, our office is right underneath that very billboard. Let's take a quick inventory, shall we?: beer, advertising, on top of the Stud... couldn't have anything to do with sex, could it? We've never heard of the brand either, Bay, but we've heard a term for all that froth teeming out of the bottle. It's called head.

Speaking of our office, Out There found it interesting that a certain overrated Seattle sex



The Deliquescence of Elliot (1995) by Arthur Tress

columnist recently went out of his way to call ye olde BAR "obsessively out-of-touch" in print. Iron-ic, isn't it, that the publicist for said scribe was endeavoring, not too long ago, to place a chapter from his recent *Bringing Up Baby* knockoff book in this very out-of-touch paper? Look for it soon in a


remaindered pile near you. Yes, our relish of reading extends even to the pages of the obsessive BAR. We hope you enjoy this week's buffet, best devoured while fresh and piping hot. Gobble it up quick, because yesterday's news is tomorrow's fish-and-chips paper. ▼

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photo: Greg Day; model: Cole Tucker, www.mandreams.com



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SUSTIVA is generally well tolerated, with fewer gastrointestinal (GI) side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, than Viracept®.³ Diabetes, kidney stones, and life-threatening liver problems are rare.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



Once Daily
SUSTIVATM
efavirenz

[illegible]



SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules

Patient Information about SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after

you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

* SUSTIVA™ is a trademark of DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company.

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BOOKS

Kewl with a K

by Jim Piechota

War Boy by Kief Hillsbery; Rob Weisbach Books, \$24

In this vigorous first novel, Oregon author Kief Hillsbery puts the San Francisco skateboard punk subculture in the limelight to an enthralling extent. Telling the story of his life and times is 14-year-old Radboy, a deaf "sk8boarder" whose Monterey family consists of a physically abusive father and an alcoholic mother, and siblings who are either "born again" or just plain absent.

Radboy's main pal is JonnyBoy, who is "kweer," about a decade older, and "kewl with a k," like just about everything else in the book that he finds hip. In a show of protective authority, JonnyBoy violently pummels Rad's Dad after he tries to take a knife to his own son's throat. The two flee the scene and head for San Francisco, where Hillsbery gets kudos for his intricate knowledge of the city, its street life, and the youth-quake scene that thrives there.

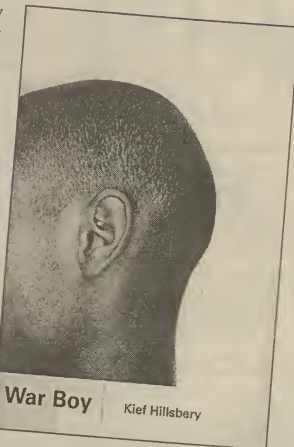
This urban underbelly finds Radboy and JonnyBoy in the company of the dazed and crackhappy homo duo of Finn and his lover Critter, and Swedish nurse cum radical revolutionary Ula. Their adventures (including a plot

to bring down a company carelessly destroying redwood forests) are narrated by an increasingly speedy Radboy, who generates a somewhat strung-out plot, but one that is ultimately addictive and thoroughly pleasing, especially for San Franciscans and those interested or already immersed in the skatepunk crowd.

Drug references are copious in *War Boy*, but their placement in the story is never heavy-handed. Instead, readers get a sometimes humorous, often brash education on crystal and crack, including a curious straw-heating practice called a "hot rail."

Hillsbery's story crackles with frenetic energy and is filled with immediately recognizable Market Street and SoMa locations, though Radboy's initial impression of the Bay Area will leave some cold. "Too many poor and crazy pathologicals begging on the streets for one thing," he muses, "and the streets themselves aren't exactly paved with 49er gold now are they?"

It is apparent that Hillsbery has done his homework. "Sk8boarder" lingo is spoken and spelled with faithful dexterity. The boy's



language is consistently rough and raw throughout, and is counterbalanced by Radboy's often surprisingly sensual point of view, especially when he describes one of his pal's physical traits. Once sexually ambiguous, our hero soon notices muscles rippling "just underneath the skin of his flat brown belly," and realizes "the silky touch of hair from his legs on my lips made me wish that minute would never end."

The novel's narrative eventually reaches a tense, heated denouement, as kidnapping, pseudo-environmental terrorism tactics, "dewd" bonding, and more drugs and sex all conspire to bring a fitting close to this strikingly bold debut literary effort. ▼

Clueless

by Deborah Peifer

Kamikaze Lust by Lauren Sanders; Akashic, \$14.95

Lauren Sanders' first novel, *Kamikaze Lust*, is, despite all the blather on the book jacket, a coming out novel, and a very good one indeed. Her hero, Rachel Silver, is a woman I enjoyed meeting and getting to know. How can you not love a character whose idea of rebellious nihilism is to cross a double yellow line?

Rachel is a newspaper reporter for a big New York daily. Living in her favorite city, she has a dream job, good friends, and if her sex life is wretched (she can only come when she masturbates alone, so her boyfriend calls her frigid), she's learning to live with that. Her current assignment, to cover an assisted suicide that was broadcast live — you'll pardon the expression — on national television, requires all her resources.

She's sure she can get the real story from Dr. Milford P. Kaminsky, the self-described Master of Self-Deliverance, because she interviewed him before he was famous. This will be the story of the year, she's sure of it, until her union goes on strike and all her contacts become worthless, the big story a complete non-starter. Then there's that little problem of no money coming in, and a beloved aunt who is dying, and a mother who is way past insane, and let's not forget the sex life conundrum. Although every lesbian who meets Rachel, including this reader, can figure out what the deal is long before Rachel does, her cluelessness is kind of sweet in an odd way.

Sanders creates vivid characters, major and minor, about whom we care greatly. Aunt Lorraine's struggle with her own mortality is moving and courageous and, finally, life-affirming. Sanders has a ready wit, which she uses to illuminate her characters. *Kamikaze Lust* is a coming out novel that explores the largest issues, of life and death, of loyalty and friendship, with care and humor. Jennifer Sanders is a writer of extraordinary skill. ▼



Author Lauren Sanders

Desert storms

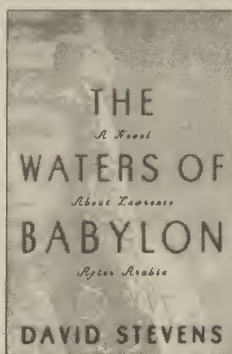
by Robert Julian

The Waters of Babylon by David Stevens; Simon & Schuster, \$24

David Stevens' speculative novelization of T.E. Lawrence's life after his WWI sojourn in the Middle East is quite a corker. Lawrence, as in "Lawrence of Arabia," was generally considered to be gay, and alternately hailed as a great war hero or a fraud, depending on one's point of view. Stevens elects to take up Lawrence's story after the war years, reflecting on the curious choices made by his protagonist and the reasons that could have led this former colonel to spend the rest of his days as a general enlisted man in the British Army and Air Force. As it turns out, the underlying theme of the book is masochism, the need for punishment Lawrence acquired while a child, from his mother's regular spankings. In Stevens' novel, it is a practice — almost the only one — that brings Lawrence to orgasm.

Lawrence, friend to famous Englishmen like Winston Churchill and George Bernard Shaw, puts their company behind him in favor of the life of a soldier. But his low rank, combined with his friendship with those more influential than his superiors, makes the soldier Lawrence a threat to his commanders. Living under the name Ned Shaw, Lawrence tries to disappear at remote postings in India, ultimately returning home to England to finish out his days. But his identity is always discovered, and his natural leadership abilities inspire fellow soldiers — in part, because he can't refrain from telling them about his previous desert campaigns.

Stevens structures his book as a collection of diary entries by Lawrence himself, interspersed



with a traditional third-person narrative that jumps back and forth in time and place. It is an interesting, inductive structure that allows the author to reveal Lawrence's story in bits and pieces, and through different voices. It is not until the midpoint of the novel that Lawrence consummates his relationship with Dahoum, the Arabian camel-boy Stevens creates as the great love of Lawrence's life, the inspiration for his military triumphs. It is the boy's untimely death of typhus that sends Lawrence into a mental tailspin and inspires the hermitage of his later years. There will be other sexual partners, but never another great love for Lawrence.

As a literary device, the author uses the character of Mrs. George Bernard Shaw with limited effectiveness. She symbolizes Lawrence's wealthy friends, but Stevens never really explores how the man himself felt toward this milieu he rejected in favor of the Army. But all the disparate pieces come together nicely at the end of the novel. And much to the author's credit, this enjoyable read ultimately serves to preserve and deepen the mystery of Lawrence of Arabia. ▼

Nob Hill Adult Theatre

"Famous from the day we opened" RICHARD TALKS TO YOU 9-10PM (18+/S2)
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Future Headliner



Saturday, May 20th. @ 8:00pm

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Food, drink, complimentary lei

Plus special fire-eating show at 9:30pm

Cumming on Saturday, June 3rd.

In conjunction with mightymen.com

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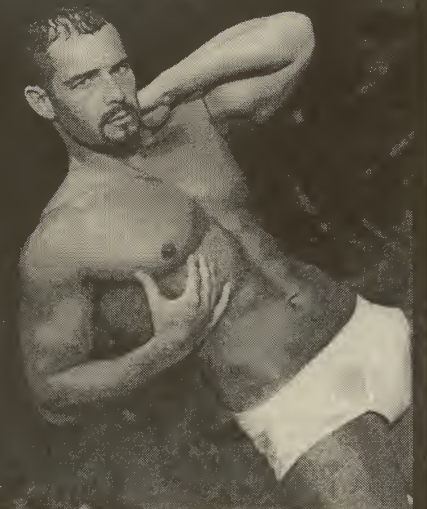
Reception at 8:00pm

Then at 9:00pm the pants cum

off and the fun begins!

Hosted by Scott Matthews

120 Channel Video Arcade



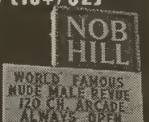
Doug Jeffries

May 18 - May 24

Erotic Talk - 976-2244 (18+/\$2)

Clean, Friendly,

Safe Environment!



BAR TALK

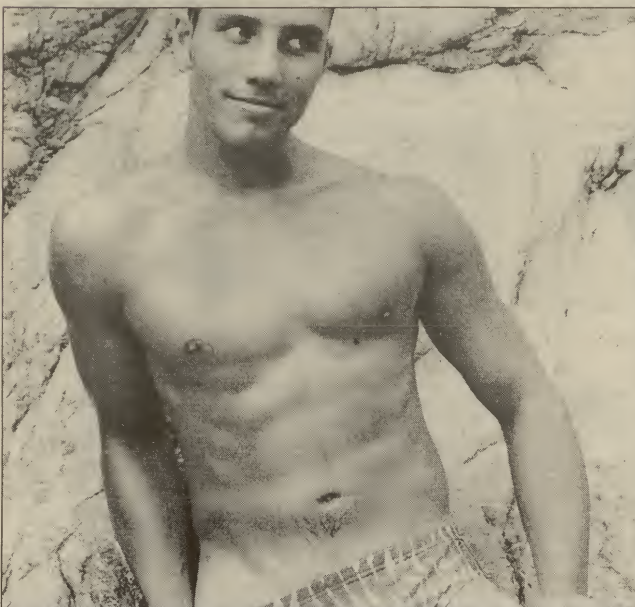


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PARTING GLANCES

Blow Buddies 4/14

You: 6'2", ish, cap, GL, hairy chest, tattoo on back shoulders. Me: 5'9", leather cap, beard, hairy chest, pierced navel. Think we could have fun home alone! **71835**

Kabuki Saturday Evening 8 Apr.

You're a big, beautiful bear. I'm a lean, hairy, bearded, blue-eyed man. I winked at you on my way out around 9pm. Anytime fella... **71836**

Fri April 14 7:30am N Judah

You: GAM, brown hair. Our eyes met-you smiled. Me: GWM, brown jacket getting off at Duboce - late for work - couldn't talk. Would like to meet you. Call me please. **71837**

Rust Brown Volvo At Arco 4/20

You blonde with goatee, navy running shorts; white tee. Me black toyota; shaved head. We were both filling up on gas. You #8, me #7; we looked and smiled several times. Please call me so we can talk and more. **71867**

AG Ferrari Thur 20 April PM

You #43; me #45 a few words; smiles. Interested? Meet for coffee and dessert? I liked your smile. **71868**

Ferd!

Just want to see if you really do read the personals. Next time should I list this under seeking relationship? signed... you know who. **71870**

Chris Zapata Taqueria 4/12

I enjoyed our lunch. You have the most beautiful blue eyes. I'd love to go to Angel Island with you! Please call, John. **71871**

Kirk@Yerba Buena Gardens

I finally met you. I think you're very cute. Can we start a friendship? Floyd **71889**

Thurs 4-27 10&1030 Market St.

Me: Redhaired lad with goatee. You: intense handsome dark haired businessman. We looked & smiled. Later you passed me by Stacey, smiled again. I'd really like to... **71890**

Met At Metreon 5/5- "Gladiator"

Hector, you & friend (?) accepted my invite to sit together. Talked briefly after film. Didn't get your number (happy sight) Would like to see you again. Dinner? Scary movie! Robert. **71927**

My Navy Blue Mado Frames

Caught your eye at Market Street Safeway. But you need to look again to see if the fit is correct. When can we make that appointment? **71925**

Seeking Roark From San Bruno

We met once at Steamworks- can't forget about you. You GAM, me GWM, want to see you again. **71869**

28th Ave. & Geary Tues Am May 2

You- WM walking up 28th with coffee in hand. Me- WM walking down. Turned and looked lots of times. In the neighborhood? Call. **71926**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Looking For Life Partner

Professional top, Latin-looking 32yrs, 6', 150lbs. W/LTM romantic, loving and monogamous man, 30+, not into bars. Like movies, laughter, intimate times and travel. No drugs. **71838**

Partner Wanted Honesty Helps

GWM, 5'11", 165#, 53, ns,nd, HIV-, seeks for same. Likes travel, walks, movies, gardening. 35-55 for LTR. **71878**

Above Ronnie

Daddy, we had our good times- with lots of bad-but even you say we deserve better. So let us give each other better- let us work it out. Love you. **71840**

Senior Seeks Seniors...

For good fellowship and vigorous man-to-man sex. Call for details. In SF. **71841**

Got A Crotch Full Of Goodies?

I'm hooked on spurted cum, fresh hot piss, smelly cheese if uncult, licking sweat off big balls and rimming squeaky clean assholes there's no tomorrow (but no scat)! **71842**

Seeking Sex Buddy

GWM, 5'4, 5'8", 165, brn/blu, HIV-, wishes to meet Randy GM who enjoys being jacked off by another guy. Let's play safely, but still have a good time. **71843**

Husband Material

GWM, 42y.o., 200lbs, gm eyes, s&p hair, HIV-. Seeking 35 to 45y.o. hairy top. I'm professional, easy going & financially secure. Like to travel, music, movies, have quality time w/what special guy. HIV-only. **71844**

Love Me Tender I'll Be Only 4 You

I'm 36, 5'7", 142lbs, Brazilian, hot, horny, clean, educated, stable, nice hard dick, masculine, seeking GM under 40 for friendship. After that romance, only love & love. **71845**

Looking For Older Black Male

GWM, 45, 5'11", grbr, 170, slim, prof. would like to meet Black masculine male 40-65 for dating or more. Me HIV-, sks same, like dining out & romantic times. Call me. **71846**

GAM 48 Seeks GWM 55 Or Over

For LTR. I am average build, prefer non-smoker & clean shaven. **71872**

ISO Uncut Asian Hunk/Son/Lover

Ub sweet/smar/ emplend/cuddler/ready, 4 trim GW daddy 39- addic/cocksucker-rimmer/sweat off balls/licker/piss drinker/Phi Beta Kappa/catch of your life. **71873**

Philipino Men

GWM 6'2" 165lbs. Would like to orally service you deep for 1 or 2 hours. Lay back and enjoy my tongue. I can take it all - your manhood. **71874**

Win Win Situation

Good-looking, mid-thirties, WM (6'1", brown hair, green eyes, height-weight proportionate, clean-shaven), conventional looking / liberal thinking, college teacher, masseur, warm, sincere, sensually adept, communicative. Mediterranean looks a plus. Let's talk possibilities! **71875**

32 WM Cute Muscular Bottom

8/yr 5'7", 175lbs. HIV+ into cycling, swimming, weights, music, food, laughter, sex. ISO GM 25-45, any race. Well built, masculine, intelligent & sensual. **71876**

Hot, Muscular, Passionwellrounded

GWM, muscular, hot bod, caring, fun, 35, loves a variety of things. 5'11", 375lbs. HIV+, spiritual, passionate. ISO same for great chemistry w/riend and long term love. **71877**

Rugged Guy

Professional, clean-cut, athletic Asian, 5'2, 5'8", 155, seeks similar lean or gym-toned, clean shaven WM into hiking, sports, running, workouts, cultural arts, films, ethnic foods, quiet interludes and you? **71879**

Hot French Love

French guy in 30's or 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in 30's. **71891**

Spank Me

Cute little frat boy 22 needs over the knee discipline from a dominant big brother. Me? 5'11", 155# blonde smooth bottom boy. Athletic into jockstraps, speedos and dads hand on my bottom. Location China Town. **71892**

Mature Man Wanted

Seeking a matured man late 50s to 60s, weight proportioned to height who would enjoy being serviced on a periodic basis, no monogamous man, 30+, not into bars. Let's get together! **71893**

GWM 48- Seeks- GAM/GWM-To-45

For monogamous long term relationship. Must enjoy movies, theatre and home life. No barflies or drugs. **71894**

Man Of The Heart

WM, 35, youthful, HIV+ open to love, healthy positive attitude, down to earth, sense of humor, looking for HIV+ male masculine, 25-37. Emotional available attractive, playful, top, ready for love. **71895**

Handsome Muscular Italian

40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. **71896**

Passion Sought

I'm an HIV+ top 48, 5'8" 140lbs, brn/gry moustache seeking a stcy total fisting and passion. **71897**

Old Fashion Love

GWM, 34, 6'3", 200# into romance, passion, possibly monogamous, LTR seeks GWM 30-40 interested in same. Humor A+ The real thing!! Please, no games. **71898**

Looking For A HIV+ Partner?

Interested in a emotional, spiritual, sexual, and intellectual connection? I'm a huggable, 54yo, HIV+, worldly, well mannered/educated, professional, live alone, radical activist, warm, non-possessive, workout, 5'11", 175, hot kinky sex, versatile-top, hung, zero crop hair. You: want to be in a LTR with someone you want to hand on to, share life with. **71899**

"Grandpa" Seeks "Grandson"

To age 30, to care for & help get going in life. I am sincere- you too- let's talk. Any race good. **71900**

35yo Blond/Redhead Wheelchair

Goatee, seeks sane sexy male who enjoys being top to passionate bottom, must enjoy kissing and touching for LTR. **71901**

Reward Me

With your great looks and nice body Show me your sexy erotic naked needs. Be ready for me. **71893**

Calling Homebodies

GAM, 34, ISO friends to play tennis & bowling, enjoy tv & movies, dine, visit amusement parks. Tobacco user okay, N/D. Guys in & outside Bay Area equally welcome. **71902**

Str. Acting GWM 6', 170lbs.

35 years old, average to good looks, like to ride bike, dining, movies, travel & a few cold ones. Once in a while looking for GWM with same interests. Discreet reply please. **71903**

Positive Hunk For You

Stable, sincere, goodlooking, GWM, 5'10", 185lbs, 46 chest, 32w, 18a, looking for friendship, dating, possible LTR with other HIV+ who has a brain as well as a good body. **71928**

Professional & Passionate Guy

35yr old European guy, 6ft tall, 175lb, brn hair, blue eyes. HIV- & fit. Into travel, hiking, music, & having fun. ISO prof. Looking for romance & friendship. **71929**

Watchful For A Sexy, Masculine,

& energetic man who can keep up with an intense 29yo hot and passionate guy recently into leather, underwear, revealing w/riends but always into quiet weekends/river, extremes, everyday pleasures. Together: enough stances to know our identities with another and always with a heavy sex appeal! **71930**

Straight From The Heart!

Very cute GWM, mid-30's, boy next door seeks top for making love, romance and laughter. **71931**

Sexy Asian

Seeking sincere, honest. Lots of humor. GWM 40-55, Me 5'6", 140#f. Enjoy movie, music, possible LTR. **71932**

Hot Latino

U8 GWM, 45ish, HIV-, hunky, into sucking and getting sucked. I'm trim, good-looking, with a good outdoor job. So call? **71933**

Ukrainian Man 33yo, 182cm/82kg

Likes discipline and punishments. Open for contacts with constructive ideas about visits, travels, job and interesting correspondence. Call. **71934**

GWM 45yrs, HIV+ Bottom

Handsome 45yrs old, HIV+, bottom looking for GWM HIV+ top ages 40-50 for fun, sex & possible LTR. **71935**

GWM LTD Time Offer Big XXXX

Adventuresome affectionate, 6'-1", 175#, br/gr, 40 look 33, clean shaven, architect, nonsmoker, early riser, own flat, swim, hike, cook, museums, nude massage, romantic b+b's or "Thelma and Louise" roadtrips. **71936**

Submit!

Leather boy wanted by leather dad in E. Bay. Dad is experienced in bdsm, total top, 50's, 6', 225, masc, hung. Ub White, fit; hairy+musc. Preferred for play/LTR. HIV-. **71937**

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Let's Play With It

Slip out our swollen penis bulbs & show 'em off. Slap & slide our stiff donks together, make 'em swing & sway. I'm 48, 5'9", 155, bald, furry, goodlooking. Verbal and/or Asian a+ **71847**

Chubby, Fat, Stocky, Heavy-Set

GWM, 44yo, 5'11", 250lbs. seeks chubby & fat men for uninhibited safe sex. Discretion a must. Big tits, thighs, legs & butt a plus. **71848**

2 Cocksuckers

Looking for hot, uncut cocks to suck off by a goodlooking couple who works as a team. **71849**

Daytime/Playtime

I'm GWM, HIV-, top, 6', 185# with 35+ years free seek playmate bottoms in Sonoma County for kissing, sucking, fucking! **71850**

Hand Roud A Rump In Your Lap

With moderate heat, roast covered rump 15 minutes. Strip outer layer, raise heat and baste to pink. Uncover and broil 1 hour til flesh is red, tender and blazingly hot. **71851**

Play With This

I've got big nipples, big half round bubble butt and big dick...which one do you want to play with? "Safe sex only" **71852**

Viking ISO Masculine Man

Swedish GM, 41y.o., 5'10", 145lbs. cobalt blue/dark blond, moustache, thin and fair, poz. ISO masc./muscular man w/ facial hair, poz, partly animal, top, to have fun with. **71853**

Bootlicking Fetish

Seek hunk to see 45 who will allow me to lick and polish boots. Especially excited my military, police & cowboy attire. **71854**

Got Dick??

Average GWM professional 50's, HIV-, 6'2", 200# non-gym, witty, down to earth, smoker, looking for nice guy with cut fat tool to orally service. **71855**

Young Slave For Dog Training

Very cute 26y.o. submissive boy from Eastern Europe wants to dog trained by a cute but demanding master(s). Full obedience and cooperation guaranteed. **71856**

My Priorities For Your Crotch:

Convincing i/you I'm your world-class (A) cocksucker (B) rimmer (C) piss drinker (D) cheek eater (E mercifully uncult) I'm ready, but...are you? **71857**

Got Foreskin?

VGL, 30yr GWM, ISO uncut White men to orally service. You be 18-35, masc., into kicking back for intense oral pleasure. Pluses: smooth/shaved, muscular, verbal, blond, hung. **71858**

Mature Nipples

WM, 57, seeking mature for safe rimming and heavy nipple work. Big tongue, beard, 6', 190, thick cock. You 55 plus. **71859**

Asian Cocksucker Palo Alto 42

5'11", 190-8lk, sht hair, brn eyes, seeks 36-46y.o. guys to suck off. Have car will travel within the Peninsula. at your place **71860**

Santa Rosa. Hot Bottom

Great shape, 40, 175#, 6', brn/blu. Looking for in shape top. **71861**

They Call Me "Big Black"

I need a tall, husky, non-bearded, submissive bottom to ride my rod. Discreet, experienced only. Moustache a plus. Fast, hot action. I'm 45, 5'9", 180lbs. honest. **71860**

Hot Man-Pussy

Asian, 35, 5'8", 165, in shape, total bottom wants to surrender his hot shaved hole to you. Fist, cock, I want it all. East Bay. **71861**

One Wild Fuck

Vers. muscle fuck looking for masculine handsomeness to screw me ready 24/7 to take you down. Can you do the same for me? **71862**

Horny In San Leandro

Handsome, hot 39yr old GWM, loves to suck dick, slow and fast, you tell me how you like it, open to all fantasies, call me 24 hours. **71863**

I'm An Old Gray-Haired Cocksucker

Who does what he's told. Put your prick...I'll put my tongue-where we can both enjoy it. Pluses: friendliness, experience, lean physique, unmistakable masculinity. Any race. East Bay. **71864**

Let's Do It

Wanna fuck me? I wanna fuck you. I'm 52 yr. old, 6'2", 180lbs, 7" +. You are height/weight, somewhat the same. HIV+. **71865**

Like To Suck Cock And Get Fucked

GWM, 5'11", 175lbs. HIV-, n/s,nd, I like to suck cock 6 to 8". Like to play with your ass and balls, get fucked while watching video's. Please call, age no factor. **71866**

Cock Sucker Needed

Mature WM, slim, hairy, HIV- 7" uncult seek gay male HIV- with 8" + for suck ing and licking. **71904**

Seeking Younger Submissive Man

Attr: mature man, 76, 5'8", 165, seeks gllf's under 45 man for ongoing sex. I especially enjoy being a dad or master to a trainable sexy boy. **71905**

JO Adventurer

Unbashed sinder seeks curious hedonist any age/race, to wallow together in prolonged edging, euphoric ecstasy, and full-stop self pleasuring. Side-by-side scene (no physical contact necessary). **71906**

BAR TALK

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CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
 Seeking Relationship ☐
 Seeking Adventure ☐
 Lesbian ☐
 Fetishes ☐
 Couples ☐
 Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
 Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ass Massage-Erotic Spanking
Look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, spank, probe & screw your butt. Me: attract, GWM, 45, 6'5", 250lbs, stocky. You: attract, GM(White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. ☎ 71907

Submissive Role Player
Need a dominant verbal guy with a trim build to tell me what to do. This masculine lean WM 42 is open to your fantasies. ☎ 71908

Poz Ital 4 Vers Asians
Masc. 56, 6'1", 220# loves to rim, suck, fuck-topbottom. U8 18-40 Asian or smooth White dude. N/D, ok my place or yours. ☎ 71909

Daddy & Son Seek Asian For
Second son, BM, 25, 6'9", muscles. Top son & WM, 45, 5'10", 160#, muscles. Top dad seek AM, bottom son. SF weekdays. ☎ 71910

Chronic Masturbation Addict
GWM, 32, thin, chronic masturbator, jacks compulsively naked for hours, days, wants like-minded buddy for repeated, obsessive, marathon sessions. Under 35, thin, South Bay A+. ☎ 71911

Pussy Videos
I'd like to come over & watch pussy videos pretending we're straight. We'd get so horny that we'd have to take it out, show it off & then get down'n dirty. ☎ 71912

Fantasy Ecstasy You And Me
GWM, HIV+, 30's, romantic, hot passionate bottom ISO, Latin, White, Black tops 35-45yrs seeking fuckbuddy's "no head games!" ☎ 71913

Seek GM For Passionate Fun
GWM, 46, 5'8", 145 seeks trim Asian, Latin, or Black for passionate early morning or daytime fun. Must like to kiss, hug, stroke & get passionately wild! Your place or mine. ☎ 71914

Expert Cocksucker Wanted
Horny Black guy, 34, 5'11", 200lbs needs oral service by cocksucking expert. Prefer older, 40-50 White guy or Asian. Suck my cock-lick my balls. ☎ 71915

Amateur Dicksticker
ISO practice partners. Talented asshole self. Adjusts to accommodate cocks of any size, race or age. ☎ 71916

Waters Warm In My Hot Tub
Russian River guy with room to grow. Avid oral endurance performance by command, sir. No job too small, but some too big. No recip. nec. but enjoyed. ☎ 71917

Well-Hung Bottom Seeks Top
GWM 49, 5'8", 140# salt-pepper hair, HIV+, 8' + cut, vers. Bottom looking for hot top for long party sessions ☎ 71918

Black Top Looking For Buddy
I'm 40, 5'10", 205#, well-built. Looking for a masculine Black or Latino bottom, 35-50, with a great butt and/or great legs for fun at my place in SF. ☎ 71919

Cute Latino Boy
You: 35-50, goodlooking, generous, top, White or Latino and romantic. Me: Your wet dream! You won't be sorry! ☎ 71920

Sexy GAM Wants Doggy-Style Fun
Filipino, 31, clean cut, athletic build, smooth, boyish seeks GWM for soft kisses and hand pumping. Couples welcome. Blonds a plus. ☎ 71921

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service any age/race. I'm HIV-, White, 6', 160, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 71922

Dad ISO Boy
Dad late 40's looking for boy 20's-30's with interest in leather SM related activities/lifestyle. Mentor rather than playmate. Honest. Genuine interest in ongoing training/companionship. ☎ 71938

Are You Ready
To meet a very active 66yo. gay Jewish male who is slim and good-looking? Slen-der Latin or Asian a plus. Hayward area. ☎ 71939

Silver Fox Seeks Same
50yo pos GWM, 5'10", 170lbs., uncult, ISO a few good men 40-60 wanting hot oral sex. Reciprocal not necessary. Daytime adventures o.k. Bottom for right top. ☎ 71940

Asian For White Male
Asian male, 36, 145lbs, 5'7", attractive, in great shape, smooth, clean shaven. In search of White Male in their 30's, smooth, and good shape for friends, dates and more. ☎ 71941

Let's Play Doctor
I'll strip you naked as I examine you and you'll be scared or shy or ashamed or bad & definitely hard; then you'll do me and we'll get so horny together. ☎ 71942

Big Bush
Do you have a really thick, big bush of hair down there? Want to strip, pose, be sketched? Attractive GWM, 40s, trim and fit, wants to watch and sketch gay/bi or str8 guys. ☎ 71943

Well-Hung Butch Bottom
GWM 49, 5'8", 140#, slp hair, HIV+, 8' + cut, vers., very oral and anal... Looking for butch top for long party sessions! ☎ 71944

Horny Hot Bottom
Fuck my pussy hungry hole with your delicious cock. Me: cute and always horny. You must be 20-45 with any race. ☎ 71945

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Wanted by 56yr old White male 6'0", 160lbs dnm/bm hair/bm eyes glassed big 9" cock wants to fuck hot White or Latin bottoms ages 18-40. ☎ 71946

The Sexiest Guy In Town
Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Be safe! ☎ SAFE

LESBIAN

Seeking Lesbian
GWM European 24 seeks Lesbian to share experience. ☎ 71781

Seeking Lesbian
GWM French, 24 seeks lesbian to share experience. ☎ 71887

FETISHES

LTH Son Seeks 2 LTH Granddads
Blond bootlicker 45/HIV-/ss into s/m, b/d, w/s will give anal/oral service to 2 hot, hung tops, 65+ Do me daddies! ☎ 71801

I Love Bigger And Better
That make it worth the time & trouble of sucking you all the way. Your tool will love the way I suck it. (uncut a plus). ☎ 71802

True Cocksucking Confessional:
This addict maximizes your production with creative head. Bigger heads off your mind for you. Yummier than caviar for me. Triple treat (uncut combo). ☎ 71803

Eroticism In Bondage & S/M
G blonde & Asian couple, cute, muscular, 33 & 38, wishes to be stripped & tied up by a couple or single, under 40, submission, CBT & more, switch roles will be great. ☎ 71804

ISO Jockstraps & Foreskin
GWM 46 daddy type ISO younger uncult boy with a dirty gulf and mind into mutual sucking, rimming, j.o. Video's, sweat, role play, toys, underwear, anything goes. Relationship possible. ☎ 71805

Master 48, Experienced-
Seeks whipping boy/bondage slave- eager to please, and serve. Subject should be 24-38 with some training and the real drive to belong. Subject dedicated to the satisfaction of its master. Limits respected/expanded. ☎ 71862

FFT Seeks Latin/Asian/Black FFB
Into getting punched and stretched. Me: GWM, 28, 6'2", 153 #, stash, goatie. You: any age, speed free. A+ for facial hair, stocky flat top. Safe sex a must. ☎ 71863

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!!! ☎ 71864

Furry Lip And Open Throat?
Hung and horny East Bay man, 46, enjoys watching a mouthache bouncing on his big stick. Too big for beginners. Please no beards or goaties, volcomer or work phones. ☎ 71865

Talented Mouth And Tongue
By energetic GWM, 36, 5'8", 125#, go-t-gym love to suck, rim, drink piss. You: In-shape, take charge, wanting tongue lashing, White/Latin. ☎ 71923

Straight Seeks Senior Citizen
Masculine-attractive WM, 57, needs male over 65 with two or more senior friends to arrange circle jerk with me as center piece. Ok- to video tape or take photos. ☎ 71924

Chubby? Got A Belly?
Trim Chase/encourager seeks 20-35 yo guy with healthy appetite. Let me feed you and build your belly. Forget fit, I like you fat. ☎ 71947

BikeShorts-Jockstraps-Spandex
Wanted athletic gay male and your gear. Bring your jockstrap, spandex shorts etc. And we will have a good time, you won't be disappointed. ☎ 71948

Bondage, Shaving And Tickling
Submissive bottom, 36, 5'10", 165, bm, hzl, good looking dominant top for bondage/shaving/fucking scene. How would you handle me, Sir? ☎ 71949

COUPLES

Want To Watch??? Join In???
Two men into fucking. Dom has huge stiff uncult cock. Sub is older, eager to get worked over. Slick action. ☎ 71806

Rub-A-Dub, Three Or More In A Tub
Sonoma Co. gldkg GWM couple, 40's, HIV+, w/facial hair, seek adventurous tops, bottoms, singles, couples for wet, hot times in our hot tub, sling and playroom. ☎ 71888

OTHERS

Bisexual Deadhead
Seeks all cummers, m or f, singles or couples. Friendships, fuckbuddies, lovers, smoke, drinks, music & camping. Long play sessions leather, w/s, b/d al. Pluses. Long haired horny bottom pig. ☎ 71807

I'm Looking To Keep Up My
Language practice. Intense French romantic GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Charming. Wild. Magical. Not into "risky French games." How can we meet? ☎ 71808

Swedish Girl
Swedish girl new to Bay Area. Having such a blast. Looking to make GM friends, interests, business etc... ☎ 71866

Out Of Towner
GBM, 6'0", 35, slim, attractive, slightly feminine relocating from Dallas mid June seeks masculine GM 30-50 for escort around San Francisco. Enjoy movies, music, comedy clubs, concerts, some theater. ☎ 71950

Versatile FF Leather Pig
GBM, 180#, 40 positive on disability/healthy, seeks special friend into leather w/s, f, versatile, sm. Long term, room needed, age, race not important, honesty is. ☎ 71951

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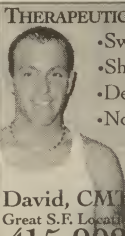
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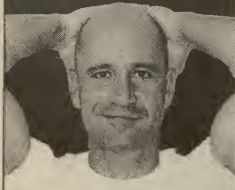
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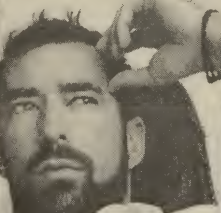


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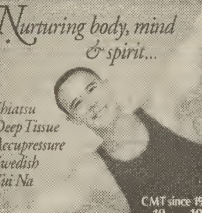
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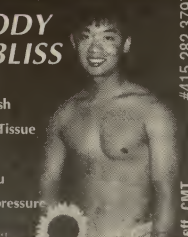
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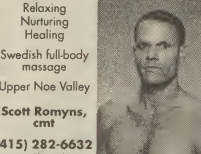
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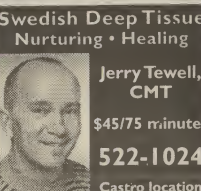
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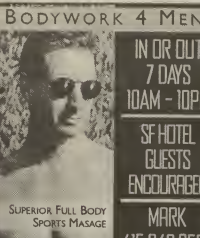
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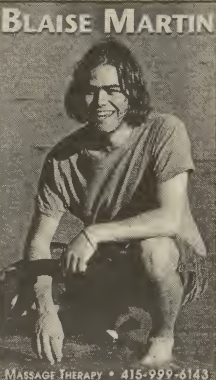
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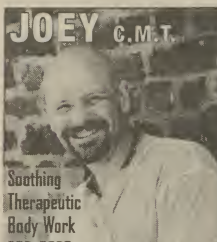
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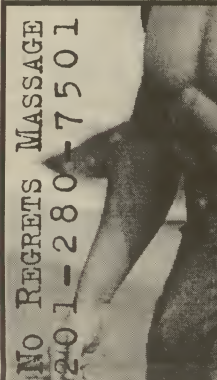
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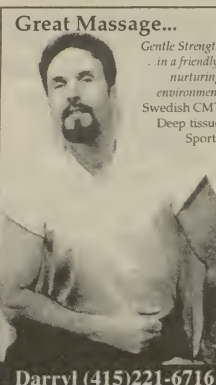
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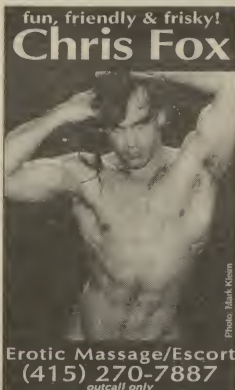
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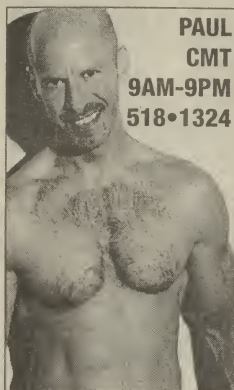
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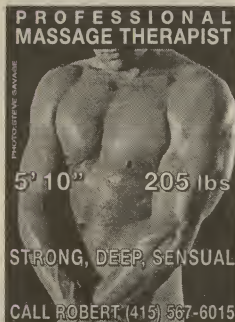
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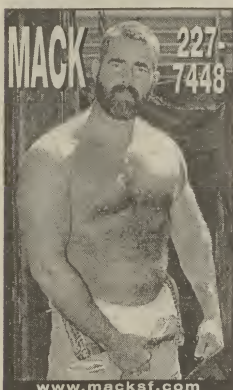
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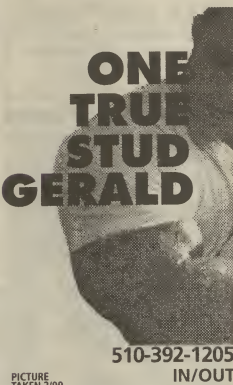
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6'190# hairy 46chs top age 33
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Cute 32 6' 170 nice smile.
Friendly passionate intelligent
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Horny, young, construction worker
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Very handsome, friendly, aggressive
hung xtra big, muscular, 6'-165#
vm 415-820-1632 out only. **E20**

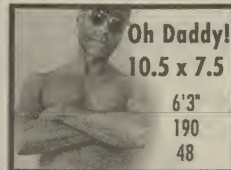
SKINNY AND SWEET
Nice young boy looking for fun.
Toned firm body 21yrs. old
5'11" 145lbs. JACOB 415 637.6497 **E20**

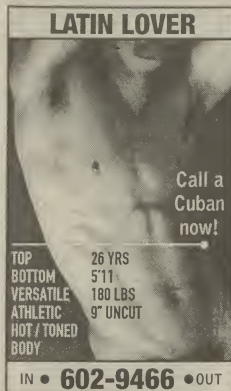
145# 5'9" 22yo/very hot
HUNG STR8 GUY
9" club always rock hard
Hardcore or kickin back
Pete 415-289-6843 voicemail*out **E20**

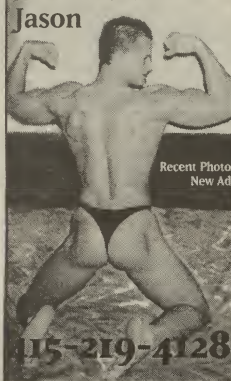
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Most scenes 786-8352. **E20**

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155lbs well defined fun and
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Outcalls only vm 207-7636 **E21**

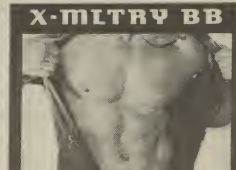
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Here to use you the freaky
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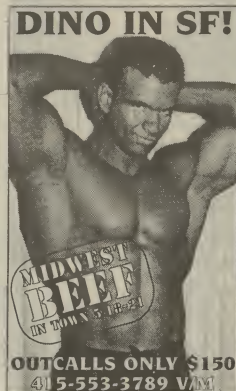
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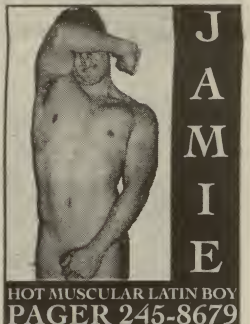
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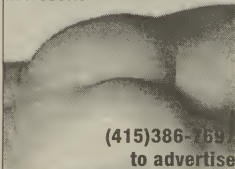
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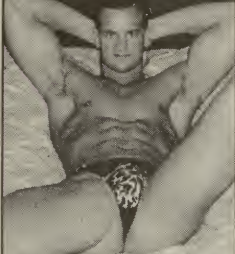
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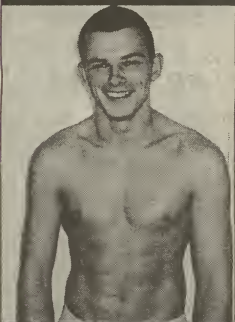
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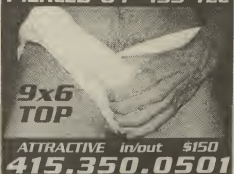
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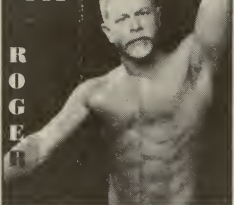
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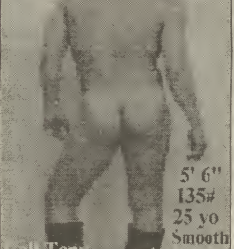
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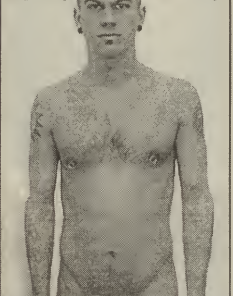


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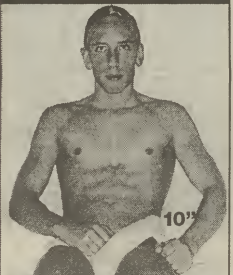
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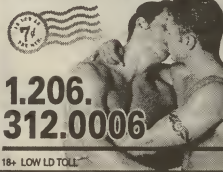
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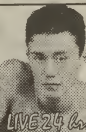
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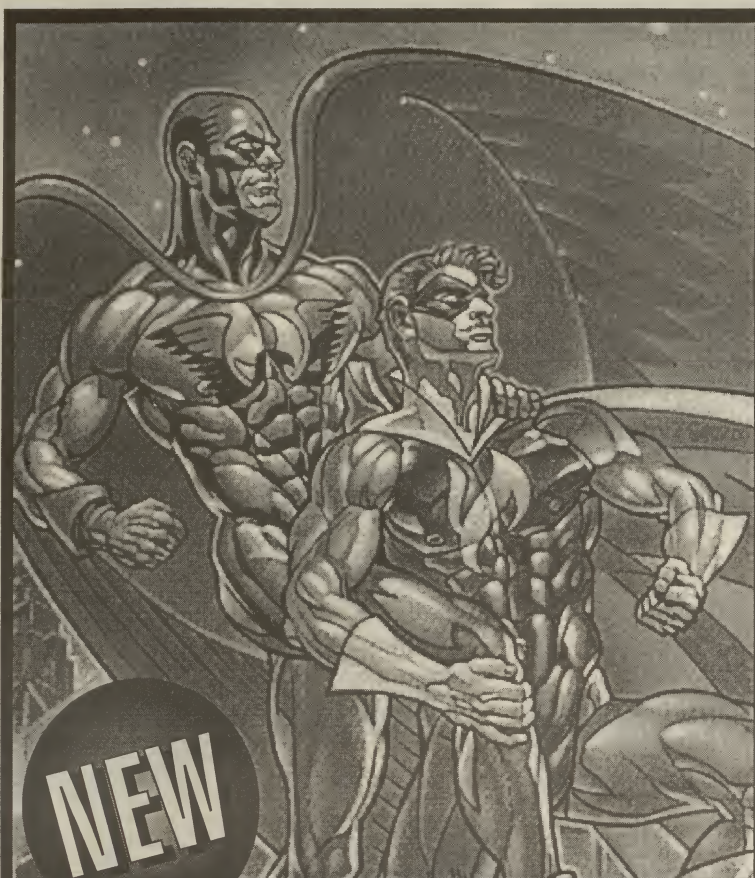
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